

The

AMERICAN

RATIONALIST

VOLUME 5 • No. 2 • JULY - AUGUST 1960

• THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL RATIONALISTS . . . ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS . . . READERS' FORUM . . . BOOK REVIEWS



Vashti McCollum, Author, Teacher, Mother; Principal in the U. S. Supreme Court's famous "McCollum Case"; Author of "One Woman's Fight". (See Page 7).

A rational approach featuring faith in Man, his power to solve his own problems, and his ability to build a better world for a glorious future.

Information Seldom Found in the Public Press

50c

Confidentially Speaking



TWO SIGNIFICANT SUBJECTS

The *American Rationalist* is increasingly seeking to provide information for its readers which is seldom found in the public press. In this issue we are featuring two such important subjects; first, we are glad to remind our friends of that very important and significant victorious achievement of Vashti McCollum, in Champaign, Illinois, in which she won her contest in the U.S. Supreme Court, whereby her son was excused from compulsory attendance of religious teachings in the public schools of her state. This decision has had a powerful influence on the entire nation and its attitude affecting the compulsory teaching of religion in our public schools everywhere.

The second concerns the very critical international situation involving the serious threat of a major world war, since the total collapse of the "summit conference" in Paris in May. The public press has had more to say on this subject but one is obliged to admit that most of it was in the nature of propaganda, particularly on the eve of a major political campaign. We are therefore especially fortunate in being able to secure a splendid Guest Editorial from Norman Cousins, Editor of the *Saturday Review*, who is certainly one of the soundest thinkers, brilliant writers, and courageous analysts of our time.

The Political Season

The next two issues of the *American Rationalist* will take us up to the national Presidential elections in November. In these two issues it is our purpose to devote more space to the major political issues in which we are all keenly interested and on which the future of our great nation may depend.

But during and following this campaign we have many genuinely great articles ready for publication by our leading writers, including Dr. Vitali Negri, William E. Zeuch, Ira D. Cardiff, Oscar Riddle, Edmund Wilson, Prof. Read Bain, Edd Doerr, James Hervey Johnson, Arthur B. Hewson, Stephen H. Fritchman, Peter Charlton, and a popular liberal of the entertainment world, Steve Allen, whom we are indeed proud to introduce to our readers in a very important and timely article in the next issue.

Meantime we hope to see many of you at the Annual ARF Convention August 12, 13 and 14. See you then!

LOWELL H. COATE, Editor.

THE AMERICAN

RATIONALIST

Published Bi-monthly

VOL. 5 JULY-AUGUST, 1960 NO. 2

YEAR THREE OF THE SPACE AGE

Second Class Postage Paid
at Chicago, Illinois

EDITOR:

LOWELL H. COATE, Ph.D., LL.D.
1028 So. Wilton Place,
Los Angeles 19, California

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

EDD DOERR
ELDON SCHOLL
Dr. VITALI NEGRI

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

IRA D. CARDIFF, Ph.D.
JOHN J. KESSLER, Ph.D.
GEORGE A. FINK, Ph.D.
ARTHUR E. BRIGGS, Ph.D.
MARIUS HANSOME, Ph.D.
WILLIAM E. ZEUCH, Ph.D.

ART EDITOR:

OTTOKAR SOUKUP

BOOK REVIEWS:

HARRY E. MONGOLD
NAN MONGOLD
KAY VINING

EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT:

DAVE SHIPPER

BUSINESS MANAGER:

ARTHUR B. HEWSON
616 N. Pine Ave., Chicago 44, Ill.

CIRCULATION MANAGER:

PAT O'CONNOR

THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST is published bi-monthly by the Rationalist Association, Inc., a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Missouri.

Publication Office: 616 N. Pine Ave., Chicago 44, Illinois. All correspondence, subscriptions, manuscripts, etc., should be directed to the Publication Office address.

Book Orders should be addressed to the American Rationalist Book Dept., 616 N. Pine Avenue, Chicago 44, Illinois.

Manuscripts accepted for publication are subject to editing and consideration. Printed articles may be used by other publications unless otherwise specified, provided only that proper credit is given to the *American Rationalist*. All articles and editorials do not necessarily represent the policy, views, or opinions of the Staff of The *American Rationalist*, but may be the opinions only of the individual contributors.

BUNDLE ORDERS: 5-24 copies and more, 35c each, 25 copies and more 30c each.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$3.00 PER YEAR, THE WORLD OVER. Advertising rates furnished upon request.

contents:

CONFIDENTIALLY SPEAKING

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE ARE WRONG?

A Guest Editorial
by Norman Cousins

NIXON'S "LEGITIMATE ISSUE"

An Interview

PROBLEMS OF FREEDOM

by Vashti McCollum

RELIGION IS A REAL ISSUE

by Bishop Kennedy

THE LESSON OF THIS HOUR

An Editorial

A CATHOLIC FOR PRESIDENT?

by Martin A. Larson

CHANGING TO A PEACE ECONOMY

by John L. Porter

U.S. HELPED WRECK PEACE ECONOMY

by Adlai E. Stevenson

YET SHALL HE LIVE

by Caryl Chessman

UNITED WE FALL

by Edd Doerr

HEAVENLY HUMOR

READERS' FORUM

BOOK REVIEWS

RELIGIOUS CENSUS AT UNIV. OF CHICAGO

AUTOMATION (A Poem)

by Garth Bentley

WIDE, WIDE MOVEMENT

GETTING RID OF SUPERSTITION

by David Seabury

MORTGAGE ON U.S. — 750 BILLIONS

by Maurice H. Stans

For Biographical Sketch of Vashti
McCollum, please turn to Page 7.

A Magazine With A Program

RATIONALISM DEFINED: We believe that the majority of Rationalists would accept the definition of Rationalism as stated by the American College Dictionary, as follows: "Rationalism is the principle or habit of accepting Reason as the supreme authority in matters of opinion, belief, and conduct." — This is brief and pointed, and it does not limit Rationalism to the consideration of any one particular subject.

An Immediate Rationalist Program

THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST is a non-partisan publication but it is in full agreement with the first President of the United States, George Washington, that "The United States is in no sense founded upon the Christian religion." It is dedicated to our system of political Democracy, and is opposed to all forms of totalitarianism, whether political, religious, or economic.

THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST (1) Supports our Government and Constitution in maintaining complete separation of Church and State; (2) In excluding all religious teachings from our public schools; and (3) In excluding all public tax funds from sectarian religious purposes. (4) It also advocates the taxation of all church properties. (5) It urges the exclusion of Chaplains from the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and from all branches of the military services. If the Church wants Chaplains let it support them by voluntary contributions as it does its own ministers and missionaries. (6) It supports the proposition that the right of freedom of religion includes the right of freedom from religion, and the right to oppose any religious belief and practice through any and all channels of public communication. And (7) It asserts that the time has come to more closely unite our forces for the sake of progress, to oppose all superstition, and to establish a brotherhood of mankind in universal ethics, based on human experience and the scientific method.

An Expanded Rationalist Program

The great majority of Liberals and other Americans are far more interested in a program of action than in any abstractions — creeds, dogmas, doctrines. Any such program should include such modern and closely related subjects as: (1) Fair and adequate mass information; (2) Civil liberties and our Constitutional freedoms; (3) International peace and security; (4) Population control and the right to Planned Parenthood information; (5) Improved physical and mental health; (6) A halt to the growth of crime and juvenile delinquency; (7) Education for guidance of rational programs for the "general welfare"; (8) The elimination of racial prejudice; (9) Conservation of our natural and human resources; and (10) An economy of abundance to encourage and to stimulate the proper normal economic growth and development of our great nation, thus attracting millions of America's finest citizens to active participation and cooperation in creating Man's glorious future.

What Do We Do When We Are Wrong?

by NORMAN COUSINS
Editor of the Saturday Review

AN UNEASINESS is settling over America. It goes deep down. There is a feeling that we are undergoing a moral shrinkage in the eyes of the world community. The bigness of our history seems to have been interrupted. The large image of America created by our past seems less clear than it was only a short while ago. And we are sensing a mood of disconnection — disconnection between what we stand for and what we do; disconnection between ourselves as individuals and those who speak and act for us as a nation.

It is natural for Americans to think of their country as a prime source of stability and responsibility in the world. We have traditionally interposed ourselves against hotheads and bullies in the international arena. We have denounced aggressors, instituted action to stamp out brush fires, and called for a code of responsible behavior for nations.

Only three years ago the President disassociated the United States from her allies in the attack on Suez. He properly declared that the United States could not observe a double standard in its foreign policy. We could not approve in our friends that which we denounced in our foes. — World law meant obligations binding on all. This was the position we took when we went before the United Nations and supported the resolution against our friends.

Another question of right and wrong has now come up — but this time we ourselves are wrong. We dispatched jet planes on military reconnaissance over Russian territory. In doing so, we took appalling risks. The main danger of nuclear war today comes not from a definite policy by any nation to launch such a war, but from an act of carelessness or a hideous miscalculation. An alien military reconnaissance plane taking photographs over any country — whether the Soviet Union or the United States or Great Britain or Pakistan or India or whatever — is a specific and volatile act of provocation that could ignite the war fuses. Our armed forces are constantly monitoring their radar screens and are prepared immediately to send jet planes in the direction of the Soviet Union if we should see any possible hostile object. Thus, precisely the same violation we

committed, if carried on against us, would trigger our swiftest retaliatory measures.

In any case, the plane incident is at the opposite end from the code of responsible international behavior and world law advocated by the President and the Secretary of State. It creates a strange atmosphere for a meeting of heads of governments called for the purpose of reducing world tensions. It gives world Communism its biggest propaganda boost in many years. It puts us in a harsh and damaging light before the world's peoples, whose good will and respect are more vital to our security than any reconnaissance photographs or even stockpiles of nuclear bombs.

Only a week ago the President sought to dramatize for the nation the importance of maintaining a human fund of good will and respect, in connection with his proposals for economic aid. But we can't place a high value on world opinion about our economic policies and then disregard that same world opinion about our military policies.

Just as disturbing as the incident itself was the manner of our response. When it was announced that an American plane had been shot down, we made a false explanation that the plane had wandered off its course, and that the pilot had perhaps been in a daze. (If this statement had been true, consider its implications alongside the recent proposal by American military officials to keep hundreds of bombers in the air on a round-the-clock basis, fully loaded with nuclear explosives and within ready striking distance of the Soviet Union.)

Meanwhile, by way of compounding the damage, several Washington sources were quoted as saying that our only mistake was that we were caught. This is a curious definition of morality to come from a capital that only recently was making headlines with its full investigation of rigged TV quiz shows. An equally astounding comment was that, if only the pilot had chosen to go down with his ship, instead of bailing out, the United States might have been spared the embarrassment represented by the Soviet ability actually to produce the captain of the American plane. In other words, we are now calling on our soldiers to

give their lives, not to serve our honor or our freedom, but to spare us the indignity of being caught in a lie.

In any event, the sense of fright and shock felt by the world over the incident was not allayed when it was demonstrated that the initial American explanation was untrue. In this connection, one thing is clear: the American people have not given leave to their government or any branch thereof to speak falsely in our name or make us look like fools.

Most serious of all is the later statement that the reconnaissance one thousand miles inside the Soviet Union was carried out without knowledge of the White House or the State Department. What it means is that not all the major decisions having to do with war and peace are being made by those who are constitutionally entrusted with the responsibility. It means that the military has arrogated to itself powers intended for the President and the Congress.

No one doubts that the American military was attempting to serve the national security as it sees it. The location of our missile bases is a matter of common knowledge. We live in an open society. But very little is known about the Soviet bases. And there is the fear of surprise attack. It was for the purpose of reducing this danger, it is now officially stated, that the reconnaissance flights were authorized.

The danger, however, of a surprise attack against us may proceed more out of jitters caused by high-flying planes where they should not be than by inadequate intelligence. Moreover, if we are really serious about wanting to reduce or eliminate the danger of a Soviet surprise attack, we should vigorously pursue the new Soviet offer to disarm. Instead of locating Soviet rocket sites, we ought to be locating the true nature of the Soviet intentions. At long last the Soviet claims it is now willing to accept inspection and controls as part of a comprehensive disarmament plan.

If we can get the Soviet to give up its capacity to wage surprise attacks, this will contribute much more to our security than a gallery of photographs showing every military installation in the Soviet Union. And if the Soviet offer to submit to controls is just a propaganda maneuver, it will be easy enough for us to unmask it as such. We can make counterproposals to give the United Nations the specific machinery for carrying out a program of effective disarmament under enforceable safeguards.

Let's test the policies of the Russians and not their tempers.

Here we get to the heart of the matter. The Atomic Energy Commission and certain military officials have made it clear that they are opposed to any program of disarmament — even if we could get the Russians to agree to everything we asked. One thing is certain, however. We are not going to get others to submit to controls and turn in their hardware unless we are prepared to do the same.

The result is an American policy of uncertainty and drift. The President speaks on a plane of important principle; but major parts of the government go off in entirely different directions and act in violation of those principles.

Hence, the present feeling of uneasiness in the nation, the feeling that things are going against the American grain. For when we lose ground in world opinion, we lose vital security. What does a nation do when it is wrong? The answer need not be obscure. We can admit it and face up to it. We can act promptly and resolutely to guard against a recurrence. And we can do the things that can restore both our pride and our station in the world.

We can identify ourselves mightily with the big ideas that are directed to the control of force in the world, and not with the exercise of force. Ideas calling for a United Nations with the responsible powers of world law. Ideas concerned with the development of the worlds' resources for a more productive and healthier human commonwealth. Ideas that serve freedom by dramatizing the moral imagination of free men.

RADIO STATIONS FOR INTELLECTUALS

"The New Yorker" recently ran an enthusiastic article saluting the inauguration of the Pacifica Foundation's non-commercial FM radio station WBAI in the New York area. WBAI is now a sister station to KPFA in Berkeley and KPFFK in Los Angeles.

If you live in any of these three areas and you are a person who has wanted a station without commercials — a station which seeks the best in programs instead of high profits — a station that gives dissenters the opportunity to air their views — a station which runs the finest in music without interruptions — your dreams have come true. — However, you must do your part! Each station is a non-profit listener subscription organization. You and your friends are invited to subscribe, and you MUST subscribe to keep these stations alive. Write or call:

KPFA — 2207 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, Calif.
Phone THornwald 8-6767.

KPFFK — 5636 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
Phone HOLlywood 7-7183.

WABI — 30 E. 39th St., New York, N. Y. Phone OXFord 7-2288.

Nixon's "Legitimate Issue"

The Vice-President of the United States had his say on religion and politics before the American Society of Newspaper Editors. "Is religion going to be an issue in this campaign?" His answer suggests an approach far more unsettling than any thus far propounded:

"There is only one way that I can visualize religion being a legitimate issue in an American political campaign. That would be if one of the candidates for the Presidency had no religious beliefs. While the candidates in this campaign have differences on other issues, they are all men who recognize and cherish, both in their personal and public lives, the religious and moral principles which are the very foundation of our American ideals . . . this fact removes any excuse for continued discussion of a so-called religious issue."

The plain implication of these remarks is that a man who "had no religious beliefs" would be, at least *prima facie*, unfit for the high office to which the Vice-President himself aspires. Perhaps there are few enough non-believers among us so that his aspersion upon their dedication to American principles carries with it no serious political liabilities. But the Vice-President has disclosed not mere gross insensitivity but a woeful ignorance of the "principles which are the very foundation of our American ideals" — an ignorance which in its own terms raises legitimate doubts as to Nixon's qualifications for the highest office.

Before the Presidential campaign is too far advanced the Vice-President would do well to turn his attention to Jefferson's Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom: ". . . Our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions, any more than our opinions in physics or geometry . . . therefore proscribing any citizen as unworthy of the public confidence by laying upon him an incapacity of being called to offices of trust and emolument, unless he profess or renounce this or that religious opinion, is depriving him injuriously of those privileges and advantages to which in common with his fellow citizens he has a natural right . . . It tends to corrupt the principles of that religion it is meant to encourage, by bribing with a monopoly of worldly honors and emoluments, those who will externally profess and conform to it . . ."

Next the Vice-President might re-read Article VI Section 3 of the Constitution which says: ". . . No religious test shall ever be required

as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

Finally the Vice-President might ponder the words of the late Justice Rutledge, written in 1947, dissenting in *Everson vs. Board of Education*, in which he spoke for himself, Justice Frankfurter, Justice Burton, and the late Justice Jackson: "Compulsory attendance upon religious exercises went out early in the process of separating Church and State, together with forced observance of religious forms and ceremonies. Test oaths and religious qualification for office followed later. These things none devoted to our great tradition of religious liberty would think of bringing back."

"It Is Dangerous To Think"

Lincoln Steffens, half a century ago, shocked and aroused Americans in his articles on municipal corruption, "The Shame of the Cities." Out of his wide experience as a top reporter in many fields, he later wrote:

"It is dangerous to think. The thoughtless knowers will call you a red or a communist or a capitalist or some name that expresses their aversion to any mental activity. But somebody must take a chance. The monkeys did who became men, and the monkeys who didn't are still jumping around in the trees making faces at us monkeys who did."

The RATIONALIST believes in helping its readers to indulge in the dangerous business of thinking — a procedure of essential importance in the chaotic days through which we are living. It believes with Alfred North Whitehead that "Culture is activity of thought, and receptiveness to beauty and humane feeling. There is only one subject matter for education, and that is Life in all of its manifestations."

Since the American Rationalist is controlled by no self-interest or house organ bureaucracy, it is free to help inspire fearless thinking and action among its readers rather than to be a "safe" popular medium of entertainment. And it believes that Aldous Huxley is right in saying: "Fear casts out intelligence, casts out goodness, casts out all thought of beauty and truth."

You join in the work of the Rationalist and help assure its future and influence when you become a Life Member, among whom are many of our movement's most distinguished men and women.

Life Membership is \$120.00.

Make checks payable to the Rationalist Association, 616 No. Pine Avenue, Chicago 44, Illinois.

The Problems Of Freedom

by VASHTI McCOLLUM

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF VASHTI McCOLLUM

Mrs. McCollum is the wife of Prof. McCollum, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Illinois. Mrs. McCollum is the mother of three fine sons. She is the daughter of the Arthur Cromwells of Williamson, N.Y. Mr. Cromwell is a well-known Rationalist writer and speaker. Mrs. McCollum took her college work at Cornell University and the University of Illinois from which she received a B.A. degree in Political Science and Law, and an M.A. degree in Mass Communications. Her work for a Ph.D. in Constitutional Law is incomplete. For her Master's Degree in Communications, Mrs. McCollum did considerable research into the controversial subject of censorship of the mass media, and she intends to make further studies of this same problem for her Ph.D. She has taught dancing at the University of Illinois, and is also interested in physical fitness research, hiking, and other outdoor recreations. She is the author of "One Woman's Fight", the story of her three-year long struggle against religious education in the public schools. It is hoped that a paper back edition of this book will be brought out by Beacon Press in the spring of 1961.

* * *

Our history records a succession of battles where mankind has sought to win, or win back, his freedom from the power of the State, the Church, or both. It is this struggle that is the point and vindication of the Champaign religious education controversy. One sees that constant vigilance is required to resist the insidious encroachments and downright attacks made by those forces in the general community of men that would force their convictions upon all others.

Now as a matter of simple tactics, it is much easier to stop such invasions of individual rights where such activities are still in the planning stage. After a practice becomes established by precedent, usually nothing short of legal action is sufficient to inhibit its power. In the case of the McCollum lawsuit against the school board, this point was clearly and impressively shown to be accurate. A suit in court to stop an accepted practice, especially where both Church and State are your adversaries, is fraught with additional and serious complications. The publicity alone is a great problem. In the lives of the members of my family this force of the press has led to a great amount of acrimony and persecution. These have followed my husband's career and hindered his advancement. They went with my sons to

school and into every facet of their lives. My family has been made conspicuous and actually hated by some. Publicity is difficult for the uninitiated. It can be unbearable when it is intentionally cruel and distorted. This kind of punishment, or the threat of it, is normally enough to keep even the free spirited individual in line. To stay in line, one often has to place his liberties in great jeopardy.

Tragically there seem to be large numbers of people who accept this state of affairs, for every person who takes his right of personal decision as a supreme value not to be sullied by the pressures toward obedience.

There are thousands more who will knowingly watch an evil grow and offer no resistance to its growth for fear of becoming known as a dissenter. Yet, except for this occasional dissenter, the freedom of all would forthwith cease to exist.

On this perpetual rampart we discover the undefended wall. It is the barricade of the human person against the forces of the enveloping tendency of society to crush and destroy all human variations. Undefended because it is not understood clearly that the war is an eternal one and that it is always being fought. The McCollum decision was only one victory in this conflict; it was not the surrender or final conquest of the enemies of human liberty.

An example of the truth of this view is to be found in the thousands of "self-appointed" censoring groups springing up throughout the country. In Champaign, we are confronted with a collection of people who have banded together in order to censor magazines that are sold in this area. Under the cover of an attack upon salacious literature, the foundations of effective censorship are being laid. Now, while most mature people will agree that salacious publications serve no worthwhile purpose, it is quite another thing to accept the principle of censorship.

The local organization is under the guidance of a Roman Catholic layman, while our neighbor, Peoria, boasts of a "non-sectarian group under the sponsorship of the Knights of Columbus." One is accustomed to finding the Roman Church on the side of the censors. If it begins in the area of dirty books, where will the power of the censoring organization end? Perhaps in the establishment of the index of forbidden books as the general standard of the suitability of literature. I suspect that the majority of the members of local "self-appointed" censoring committees are decent enough people. I am afraid that they are

well-intentioned dupes and fellow travellers of those more skilled in the mockery of the human mind.

The problem of censorship is not our sole concern here. It is merely a singularly subtle and dangerous one because, on the surface at least, it is plausible, and has consequently been used as the beachhead for invasions of the rights of men. There will always be threats to our liberty. Let the free thinking personality not fall into the error of Alexander. We are not confronted with the absence of more worlds to conquer nor must we sigh because all of the victories have been won. The battle for human dignity and potential is daily being waged. Reinforcements for the few who are there fighting now are sorely needed. We are all, by virtue of our humanity, enlisted in this conflict on one side or the other.

Let our names never be found resting with the allies of sloth and human degradation, but emblazoned on the side of energy and freedom.

Religion Is A Real Issue

An American's religion may be his own business but when he runs for public office it becomes an issue which should be openly debated by the voters, is the opinion of Methodist Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy. The Bishop's remarks were obviously aimed at the Catholic Church and Sen. John Kennedy's candidacy for the Presidency.

The outspoken titular head of the largest Protestant denomination in the nation says he wants to know if the Roman Catholic Church will guarantee a Catholic President freedom of conscience.

The bishop, head of the church in the Los Angeles area and president of the Methodist Council of Bishops, made his remarks in the current issue of the church's magazine, "Together."

Protestants, he says, are concerned with the Catholic Church's position that it is the only "true" religion and that it ought to control the state.

He said that while it is the right of the church to propagate its faith and set its own beliefs, it also is the right of voters to get a "clear statement" of the church's intentions — "now and tomorrow."

Bishop Kennedy said he heard that many Catholics claim there are both "official" and "unofficial" policies of the Roman Catholic Church.

He wants to know which of the alleged two policies is operating in the United States.

Are American Catholics in accord with "religious intolerance" in Spain and Peru or do they hold more liberal views with regard to their religion, he asks.

Bishop Kennedy said Protestants also are unhappy with the Catholic Church's view that it may decide who is in error and what is truth.

Protestants, he points out, want the right to hold contrary opinions without being labeled as "heretics."

LET THE VATICAN SPEAK

Those who automatically label as a religious bigot any person who questions the wisdom of electing a Roman Catholic to the presidency might ponder the refusal of the Roman Catholic Mayor of Dijon, Felix Kir, to welcome Premier Khrushchev to that city. According to the New York Times, the mayor "had been forbidden by his ecclesiastical superiors" to do this.

If the "ecclesiastical superiors," meaning the Vatican, can prohibit a French mayor from welcoming the Soviet premier to his city, what would the "ecclesiastical superiors" have done about the invitation for Mr. Khrushchev to visit the United States, 1959, by one of their adherents? Or what would they do in the future, under similar circumstances?

There is sufficient reason why Americans are disturbed and fearful. As President of the United States, could any Roman Catholic dare negotiate seriously and honestly with "atheistic" communism? And yet, negotiation is absolutely essential for civilization's survival. It is much too late for an international "holy war" of any character; that is, if the human specie is to continue. This is one-world now, regardless of the war mongers.

Unless and until the Vatican will openly state in unequivocal terms — a baseless suggestion — that it will not use its great power to influence or direct the secular acts of its adherents in high positions, millions of citizens will refuse to vote for a Roman Catholic for the presidency of this nation.

If this constitutes "religious bigotry" the failure to exercise it constitutes a lethal danger, not only to the United States, but to the whole family of man.

Unless the President is completely free to negotiate with the so-called communists world there can be no peace, but there will be war. And anyone who is not free to do this, whatever the reason, is disqualified for the presidency of this great nation, regardless of how many other fine qualities he may possess.

METHODISTS QUESTION RELEASED TIME

Following an intensive 18 months study of the matter, the Commission on Social and Economic Relations of the Silverado Methodist Church, Long Beach, Calif., has issued a carefully worded statement which challenges the whole concept of released time for religious education. The Commission discovered in released time a program inconsistent with the American principle of separation of church and state. They stated:

1. Released time may expand until academic standards are threatened.
2. No effective program can go forward in the schools for those not participating in released time.
3. Other groups may also demand released time for their interests.
4. The educational value of released time has not been factually demonstrated.
5. A number of denominations, as well as many individual clergy and laymen have expressed doubts as to the appropriateness and effectiveness of such a method for religious education.

The Lesson Of This Hour

by LOWELL H. COATE

Ever since that Russian rocket broke the bonds of Mother Earth and flung a beeping satellite into orbit we have been bombarded almost daily from every direction with the humiliating information that the United States has suddenly become a "second rate power" because it has lost the race with the U.S.S.R. to be the first in launching such space Satellites.

The grim message which Sputnik I broadcast to the West that eventful day, almost three years ago, October 4, 1957, and its numerous successors, stares at us from the headlines and it is blasted at us from our radios and TV sets almost every hour of the day. But never do we read or hear a single word as to the real cause of this humiliation.

The sad fact is that our orthodox religions here in the United States for more than 300 years have opposed and retarded the development of science in our country and throughout the world with their unscientific dogmas. From the days of Darwin down to Bill Bryan, Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, and all the other billies, it has been a battle for open-mindedness, for the scientific method, and for the scientific facts against ancient creeds and blind superstitions. For instance, Bryan boasted that he was "far more interested in the Rock of Ages than in the age of rocks." That is the typical attitude of the paralysis of the orthodox mind. It has been "revelation" against the test tube, the telescope, the microscope, and the quiet laboratory. It is the age-old conflict between science and religion.

With such an attitude on the part of our Fundamentalists, with the long struggle to get science into our public schools as well as into our church colleges, the study of science has not had the backing and support it needed. Consequently it has not had the appeal for our youth which it should have had. With the churches telling our children that scientists are godless and damned; with ignorance, dogma, and bigotry dominating our religious thought rather than the open-mindedness required in scientific study and research, our century of national folly since the days of Darwin is now catching up with us.

Only 40 years ago Russia was about 90 per cent illiterate. She lost more than 25,000,000 killed in two world wars. But the leaders of

her revolution, godless though they were, were intelligent enough to recognize that progress in a scientific age depended on scientific education. Those leaders refused to let the minds of their people be poisoned against science by the inculcation of unproved dogmas and absurd superstitions. We now can see the logical result.

Perhaps some comparisons might be beneficial at this point. According to the U. S. News and World Report, if your child were in Russia today this is what he would face in school: in the fourth grade, biology; fifth grade, a foreign language; sixth grade, algebra; seventh grade, astronomy and calculus. The Soviets have worked out a hard-boiled and efficient school system. Stress is on work rather than "life adjustment." Perhaps you wonder how a nation with such a high degree of illiteracy only a generation ago, today appears to lead the world in science. That same publication then raises this question: "How has the Soviet Union managed to make the strides it has in education?" Do its methods differ from those in the United States? Is stress placed upon developing "rounded personality," with many so-called frills, or is it on training in the fundamentals?

The first comprehensive and objective study designed to answer these and other similar questions has been made public by the U.S. Office of Education. The basic points developed by this study are outlined by Marion B. Folsom, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the Eisenhower Cabinet. Mr. Folsom reports as follows:

"Russian children tend to get more hours of instruction in their 10-year elementary and secondary system of schools than our children receive in 12 years, from first grade through high school. All Russian students graduating from the tenth grade had completed five years of physics, four years of chemistry, six years of foreign language, and five years of mathematics above the level of arithmetic. In the same year (tenth grade), less than one-third of American high school graduates had taken a single year of chemistry. About one in four had had a single year of physics, and only one in 15 had taken advanced mathematics.

"The most qualified Russian high school graduates (about 30%) are offered higher education. All but the poorest students are actually paid for going to college. Each year the average Russian college student gets twice as many hours of actual instruction as the American college student."

This is the system that is turning out nearly

225,000 physicists, engineers and other professionals each year. If Washington is anxious to "catch up" with Soviet science and engineering, its responsible leaders should note several relevant items. First, Soviet elementary schools, high schools, colleges and universities are emphasizing mathematics, science, and foreign languages, at the same time that United States education is dropping them off from the course of study. Also an article in the New York Times magazine for September 15, 1957, reported that only 165 of the 1800 colleges in the United States teach the Russian language to some 4,000 students, while 10 million Soviet students are studying English.

Again, the British Bookseller gives the yearly output of book titles of different books being published as 11,901 for the United States, and 50,109 for the Soviet Union. And last, the Soviet Union graduates yearly about two and a half times as many scientists and engineers as does the United States. These are facts which should not only challenge our American youth but also very seriously impress those educational leaders who are responsible for our educational program in the United States.

The general attitude of our American youth may also have some bearing on this whole situation. It is interesting and enlightening to read the results of a survey recently made by the Y.M.C.A. of Chicago among 32,000 teen-agers in which the "Y" attempted to rank the interests of youth in order of their appeal. To rank 16 interests in order of their importance to them, these 32,000 youths put "clothes and personal appearance" first — "sports" second, "going around with people your own age" third, and "parties and dances" fourth.

The really serious interests of adults ranked very low in the estimation of these 32,000 young people. "Current events" ranked ninth; "science and scientific things" ranked tenth; and "politics and political affairs" ranked fifteenth. We should not be surprised that the more important interests as seen by youth seem frivolous to the eyes of adults. After all, our newspapers, magazines, radio, television and orthodox organizations, including supernatural myths, do a rather good job of brainwashing our youth to keep them juvenile.

What can we do to assure that our youth do not remain a mass of individuals of arrested development? How can we help youth to grow into adults with genuine interests? And how can we catch up with the Russians in their scientific advance? The answer is clear. We

must have less emphasis on supernaturalism and more on naturalism. We must have more intense scientific investigation and less "revelation." We must become more and more emancipated from the intellectual blight of the blind bigots who damn science and the findings of science. We must not be handicapped in the scientific education of our children and of our young men and women by orthodox religionists who insist that scientific methods and scientific findings are sin — and that scientists, as such, are godless and damned.

We are already hearing expressions of serious forebodings on the part of various orthodox religious leaders who seriously fear "a great loss of faith" among the churches because of this new emphasis on science and scientific development. This attitude is expressed by leaders in both Catholic and Protestant denominations.

If we Americans are serious about retaining our democracy, if we really want to achieve and maintain superiority and leadership in today's world, then we must do an about-face at once and begin to acquire a genuine respect and appreciation for science. We must resolutely oppose the influence of the bigoted "revelationists" in our educational program, which has in the past, and still does in the present, prevent our proper advancement as a people and as a nation. That is the lesson of this hour for us Americans.

BALANCED LIVING CONGRESS

A Congress on BALANCED LIVING will be held at Washington University, August 26-28, 1960, in which a number of groups will participate, Mental Health, Esperanto, Semantic, Economics, Balanced Living and World Religions. A workshop Saturday afternoon, August 27th, will be of special interest to Rationalists, since it will have speakers representing Ethical, Humanist, Unitarian and Rationalist groups. Attention will also be given to the European, International Humanist Ethical Union, which is affiliated with Rationalist groups in England. The Congress will be held in the new air conditioned David Wohl buildings on the campus. Dormitory and eating facilities will be available. Registration for the Congress will be \$3.00. Room Service will be \$2.50 per person, two in room, and \$4.00 per person, one in room. Room service will be limited. Reservation should be sent in as soon as possible. Mail your check for \$3.00, together with room service desired, to John J. Kessler, Humanist University, 6557 University Drive, St. Louis 30, Mo.

This Congress represents a unique event in that, for the first time, four liberal groups will be meeting together as the guests of a large American University.

It is hoped that many of our Rationalist friends, particularly in the St. Louis area, will plan to attend this interesting conference.

A Catholic For President?

by MARTIN A. LARSON

A Catholic for President? What a multitude of thoughts rush into my mind at this provocative thought! Every day the press, radio and television blares at me that anyone who objects to a Catholic presidential candidate because of his religion, is a bigot, a fanatic, a prejudiced and intolerant enemy of political freedom. I have even heard Unitarians, who have succumbed to the propaganda of the Roman hierarchy, stand up in public and maintain this line of ideology.

Robert Kennedy, brother of the man now seriously advanced by Democrats as our next president, has just published a book called "The Enemy Within," referring to such leaders as Jimmy Hoffa. But unless all history is sheer delusion, the greatest enemy within is the hierarchy of that institution of which both Kennedy brothers are devout and certainly more than obedient members.

Personally, I do not accept the religious dogmas of the Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Mormons etc., any more than I do those of the Roman hierarchy; although, in truth, those of the latter, including its Mariolatry, its papal infallibility, its pagan Mass, etc., are surely more repulsive and insulting to human intelligence. But it is not with any of these that I pose my present quarrel. After all, the Protestant churches are like the ancient Gnostics, in that they are private communions, and seek to dominate neither each other nor the state. For this reason they can co-exist indefinitely without persecution or social disturbance.

True, the Calvinist creed was stern, forbidding, and tyrannical; but it sought dominion only over its own communicants; it implied the integrity of human reason; and it permitted an individual conscience, based upon scriptural foundations. Furthermore, it encouraged secular activity; it recognized the separate authority of the state in all civil questions; it replaced the bishops with presbyters, who were local functionaries; and it vested church property and government in the hands of its laymen.

The Catholic Church, however, is now, as it has been since its very inception more than 1800 years ago, an institution which knows

no tolerance, which seeks to drive every competing sect or philosophy into oblivion; which, above all, declares that it must be co-extensive with society itself; which, by its very nature, must compel all men and women to submit without question to its discipline and its dictates on pain of death; which, wherever it has had the power, gives to all the alternative of accepting its authority or getting off the face of the earth.

The fact is that the Catholic Church is only in part a religious institution. Based as it was from the beginning, upon the ancient Brahmana models of India, it was always and is now a theocracy; it is primarily a political entity, which seeks complete civil, economic, and political control over all humanity. — The Vatican is not a Church; it is actually and literally a state. And if the laws of these United States were properly enforced, every resident official in the Roman hierarchy would be forced to register as the agent of a foreign power and as such would be kept under proper surveillance. Furthermore, it should be declared that every subscribing member of that communion is actually guilty of dual citizenship, and as such, should be deprived of his U.S. citizenship until such time as all Roman church property becomes vested in its local congregations; until all Roman priests renounce allegiance to the pope; and until no more money is contributed to the Vatican, which now receives more than half its total income from American sources, where its communicants have no legal rights in the churches they support or to the property for which they have paid.

We must remember that no matter what happens, the Roman Church never changes. It may lose millions of members; it may be torn asunder; whole provinces may wrench themselves loose from its grip; entire countries may be taken away by military conquest, as the Islamites did in the seventh and eighth centuries, but the Church does not change.

What Ignatius said in the second century, what Clemens Alexandrinus said in the third, what Athanasius, and Basil said in the fourth, Augustine and Leo said in the fifth, what Gregory said in the sixth; all this is precisely what modern popes and prelates have been saying to this day. The Catholic Church might conceivably be destroyed — but it will not, because it cannot, change.

It is dedicated now as it always has been to one unalterable principle: the destruction of all competition, and complete tyranny over the human mind. The moment the Church seized power under Constantine the Great in

325, that emperor, under direction from the hierarchy, issued a series of destructive rescripts against the pagan cults and religions; but these were mild compared to the ferocious edicts sent forth against all competing and dissenting Christian communions, the members of which were hounded mercilessly into exile and death by what was called the secular arm of God.

More than anyone else, St. Augustine gave final formulation to the philosophy of the Roman Church. When the Donatists of his day refused to stay within the Catholic communion, Augustine advocated the use of the imperial troops to force them back. He said that these schismatics were like wounded mules and horses and the Catholic priests were like doctors trying to cure them in spite of their kicks and bites. The Church he said, seeks only "their deliverance from error . . . by the help of terror, of judges and the law, whereby they may be preserved from falling under the penalty of eternal judgement," (Letter C 1). The government, said Augustine, has two arms and a sword in the hand of each. The first is the ecclesiastical, the second the secular. The first is superior, and makes all determinations concerning faith, morals and education; the secular arm has two duties only: to defend the state against foreign enemies and to escort all heretics, dissidents, non-conformists, and other servants of the devil from the face of the earth so that they may not infect the faithful with their poisonous and idolatrous opinions. The Church must reign supreme because it is the power "ordained for that very purpose." And the emperors "are the ministers of God who execute wrath upon those who do evil." (Letter LXXXVII 8).

The Romanists, for obvious reasons dislike comparisons between Catholic and Protestant or secular countries. Traveling from Italy into Switzerland is like passing from a dark dungeon into the beautiful sunlight. Spain, wracked by 1600 years of clerical persecution, bleeding from the wounds of civil war, mourning its millions who have died at the hands of the hierarchy, groaning under an ecclesiastical and political tyranny that passes description, is even so, only a pale image of the ultimate horror which the Roman hierarchy would inflict if it possessed completely untrammelled might. — Wherever the Roman Church has power and influence, there, in direct proportion to these, we find filth, ignorance, degradation, poverty, hopelessness, exploitation, injustice, suppression and misery. Go to South America, to Mexico, Cuba: there you will find graphically spread before you the results of theocratic tyranny.

Go to the Scandinavias, or look around this, our beloved country, and you get some inkling of what human spirit, set free from priestly domination can do for itself.

And now, in the name of tolerance, we are asked to throw away what we have for the horrors of Spain and Mexico!

We said that the Catholic hierarchy never changes, and this is literally true of its basic and long-term objectives. But its tactics change from day to day and from place to place. With its wealth of experience, it knows what is expedient. Its ferocity is exactly equal to its power. Just now it does not burn heretics or preach bloody crusades, because it would not be expedient. It does not even do these things in Spain, because the news would soon be told in the United States and its overall losses would soon be enormous. The Roman Church is old: it can bide its time, it can wait. It expects one day to own and control the world. Meanwhile, it seizes upon whatever is safely within its reach, lives opulently on its vast income, and plans and conspires every moment to increase and consolidate its areas of hegemony.

I was in the Netherlands ten years ago; the Catholics were then a minority. Now they are the majority. Their parochial schools are fully supported by taxation. In Canada, they have long received heavy public subsidies. In the Province of Quebec, the public schools are synonymous with the Catholic. In England, the taxpayers now contribute heavily to the Roman Catholic schools. Where will all this end?

In Catholic Ireland, the people have gone on strike against the hierarchy in the only pitiful way they can: the men refuse to marry until an advanced age, and thus the population is steadily decreasing.

Now, if a Catholic became President, and even if every member of Congress and every other official at all levels of government were suddenly Catholic, the ensuing change would not be sudden; it would be subtle, gradual, almost imperceptible. — Such a government would not, like Constantine, issue rescripts immediately against Protestants, secularists, Jews, Humanists, etc. Oh, no! During a transition period of considerable duration, it would pretend great tolerance and liberality. This would be part of the general conspiracy. Many would be lulled to sleep.

First, all judgeships, as they fell vacant, would be filled with good Catholics, then more and more public money would be channelled into Catholic schools and universities; the mails would be closed to all subversive literature, that

is, any which dared to expose or even discuss the machinations of the hierarchy — the blasphemy laws would be made to apply, first, against all Rationalist and Humanist, then all independent secular publications; the labor unions would be completely drawn into the orbit of the Catholic Church; the Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing separation of church and state would, after many intermediary steps, at last be struck out of the Constitution. Once this was done, the toboggan slide from secularism into a theocracy would be rapid indeed. What I have been describing is exactly what has been happening in West Germany under Adenauer, who poses, not as a Catholic, but as a Christian; but gradually West Germany, once Lutheran, is becoming a thoroughly Catholic country. I have been told by a German who should know that Adenauer does not really desire Reunification because East Germany is 80 percent Protestant.

And I may say that I know full well that the overwhelming majority of Catholics are totally unaware of this; if they suspected it, most of them would be opposed to it, some almost as bitterly as the Protestants who often seem to be as soundly asleep as their Catholic lay brethren. I am aroused over this for I understand the central lessons of history; and I know the nature of the Roman hierarchy, which first victimizes its own communicants, and then uses them to crush all others. It is as important that we alert innocent Catholic laymen to their danger, as it is to arouse Protestants and secularists to protect themselves.

All this could not happen in five or ten years; nor even in a generation or two. In order to avoid the aroused antagonism of the Protestants, the change would have to be very gradual indeed. One of the powerful levers which would fall into the hands of the hierarchy — should it seize the White House, would be the power of taxation. The staggering revenues now levied by the federal government would be used by the hierarchy to finance Catholic schools, hospitals, churches, and, most of all, huge Catholic families. The perhaps fifteen percent of our population which is now actively Roman, would activate the fifteen percent which is now quiescent; and this number could grow into a majority in a few decades. At the present rate of Catholic increase in Canada, that country may fall into the lap of the hierarchy before many years have passed.

Mr. Kennedy, of course, like Al Smith, would loudly proclaim his loyalty to the American Constitution and way of life. But he cannot possibly be loyal to these and to his Church

at the same time. The primary loyalty of every good Catholic is not to his country, but to his priest, the Vatican theocracy. This is absolutely certain.

If a Catholic becomes President, all Catholic violations of the law (which are now growing by leaps and bounds) will be more and more ignored and condoned. The judiciary will be staffed with Catholics. More and more concessions will be made to the parochial schools. Welfare funds will be allocated generously to Catholic recipients. Federal grants will find their way more and more into the hands of Catholic beneficiaries. Since the Catholic Church has always hated industry and wishes to regress the United States into an agricultural and medieval society, it will encourage labor unions to make demands upon employers which will bankrupt and destroy them. There is not one single aspect of life which the Church will not invade. The radio, the television, the motion pictures, the daily newspapers will more and more become creatures of the hierarchy. All those who raise their voices in public life, in the universities, or elsewhere against this encroachment will be eased out of their positions and will face literal starvation.

All this in the early phases of the Catholic triumph. In less than a hundred years, the auto-de-fes could be blazing again, and the new Dark Age would be upon us. Civilization as such would then be destroyed, not by a hydrogen bomb, but by an institution which has always hated freedom and learning, and which seeks only its own unlimited power, even if the cost should be nothing less than the extermination of mankind.

— Freethinker

Alex De Graw Voices Freethought On Radio Broadcast

Speaking on radio station KNX last September 10, Mr. Alex De Graw, Advisory Board member of Freethinkers of Southern California, in commenting on the then anticipated arrival of Nikita Khrushchev, whom he felt should be treated with the same dignity we would expect Mr. Eisenhower to receive in Russia, managed to insert the thought that those who wish publicly to insult the non-believing Mr. Khrushchev as an instigator of war and a war threat to the world, should remember that the wars caused by God, according to the Bible, are manifold, yet this has not deterred them from worshipping God, and therefore should not incite us to interfere with this country's courteous treatment of a guest, whether we like him or not.

Changing To A Peace Economy

by JOHN L. PORTER
Editor of Social Progress

The clamor for peace is steadily increasing throughout the world. It would seem to be only a matter of time until, even in this country, a wave of peace sentiment will sweep the nation, and with it will sweep out the huge armaments program. The senseless arms race is obviously inconsistent and incompatible with the idea of building a foundation for a firm and lasting peace. This will be the trend of thinking of the peoples in the future.

The United States have been pursuing a cold war policy of hate, hysteria, fear and apprehension for an entire decade. That is a long time for any people to endure a high emotional strain. A return to sanity and normalcy is long overdue. Evidencing this trend are the "peace crusades" undertaken by the heads of governments of both the communist and the capitalist blocs. Prime Minister MacMillan visited Russia, Mr. Khrushchev came to this country, President Eisenhower journeyed to parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, and only recently to Latin America — all in the cause of peace.

The world is sick of war and fearful of the militarism which breeds war. The nations are gradually becoming converted to the "one world" idea of mutual co-existence, the policy of "live and let live." The march of militarism is the march to mutual destruction, to complete annihilation with atomic and hydrogen bombs. Arms diplomacy has reached a stalemate, a dead-end. The nations now realize that they must learn to negotiate their differences peacefully. But the road to disarmament in this country is a tortuous one. The big question is: How can we de-militarize our industries without seriously inhibiting business activity, without bringing on large-scale unemployment and precipitating a recession, depression, or "bust"?

Unemployment is now one of the nation's most serious problems, even while we still have our war industries. Our armaments program has been our modern W.P.A.

It has added a note of patriotism to rally the people behind the "defense of the nation." And who would dare oppose it? It has seemed a god-send, too, for the economy — plenty of work, good pay, big profits.

Obviously the United States cannot scrap its military program without serious economic dislocations, and without creating some new industries to take its place. If jobs are taken away from the workers, new jobs must be provided or the millions made idle will become restless and create a dangerous impasse. We cannot make new jobs by producing consumer goods in those categories which are already in abundant supply. That would only add to the surplus on hand and lead to wide-spread lay-offs. Obviously any new industries must be government sponsored and related to the production of public goods and services or consumer goods in short supply, in order to fulfill a pump-priming role for the economy.

What new industry can be developed to replace the war industry? — A government-sponsored housing program would help. Adequate dwellings for low-income families are a critical need. Millions of Americans live in sub-standard houses. Livable homes should be provided at a cost which the people are able to pay. What other industries could be promoted? The nation faces a serious scarcity of schools and hospitals. These could be built, staffed and equipped under federal programs. All capable under-privileged youths could be awarded scholarships for education and vocational training. And all the American people could be provided free hospital and medical care. Health and education are among the top problems which demand national attention.

Another urgent public program could be initiated for the conservation and utilization of our great natural resources, including flood control, irrigation projects and hydro-electric installations similar to the T.V.A., which would benefit the whole nation. The road building program could be stepped up, more post-offices and other public buildings could be provided. Benefits to the elder citizens could be increased; social security payments should be raised in order to afford retired persons respectable living incomes. The age for retirement could well be lowered to 60 for men and 55 for women. Better housing for the aged should be provided.

A wonderful face-lifting operation for the entire nation could be achieved with the 40 billions annually spent for the war program. In only two or three years great social strides could be made. And having gotten out of the old rut and embarked upon a new course of marvelous achievements, we would continue to go forward rapidly.

There would be no turning back.

Adlai Stevenson Says U. S. Helped Wreck Summit Talks

(Mr. Stevenson Speaks As An Elder Statesman Of The "Loyal Opposition")

Chicago — Adlai E. Stevenson asserted that Premier Khrushchev wrecked the Summit Conference but that the United States handed him the crowbar and sledge hammer to do it.

As the nation's responsible opposition, he said, the Democratic Party has an obligation to the country and to its allies to expose and criticize the administration's "carelessness and mistakes."

There is too much at stake "to sweep this whole sorry mess under the rug in the name of national unity," the titular head of the Democratic Party told a fund-raising dinner meeting of the Cook County Democratic Party in Illinois.

The Party's Presidential nominee of 1952 and 1956 said the world faces a "terrible danger" of nuclear war as a result of the crisis. This year's Presidential campaign, he said, will be waged "under the darkest shadows that ever hovered over the world."

As a result, he added, the question of how to avert war "will and should overshadow every other issue."

The former governor of Illinois, again a potential Democratic standard bearer despite his avowed disinterest in becoming a candidate, thus stripped all restrictions from discussion of the crisis in U.S.-Soviet affairs and declared it an essential subject for partisan debate.

Blunders Charged

The administration, he said, made these blunders:

1. It sent an espionage plane over the Soviet Union "just before the summit meeting."

2. It denied the act, then admitted it.

3. Finally, President Eisenhower "proudly asserted" that he was responsible and intimated that such flights would continue.

4. The administration reconsidered and called off the flights, but to "compound the incredible, we postponed the announcement just long enough to make it seem we were yielding to pressure but too long to prevent Mr. Khrushchev from reaching the boiling point."

Alert Ordered

5. The United States ordered a world-wide

alert of combat forces at the height of tension Sunday.

6. Through this series of actions, the administration played into Khrushchev's hands, making it possible for him to wreck the conference.

7. It acutely embarrassed its allies and endangered its bases.

8. It helped make successful negotiations with the Russians impossible so long as the present administration is in power.

"The chances of a more stable world, which seemed to be brightening, have been rudely reversed," Stevenson said.

Without "our series of blunders," he added, Khrushchev would have had no pretext for making his "impossible" demand for an Eisenhower apology at the summit.

"We know how clumsy this administration can be. — We are not likely to forget the fumbles that preceded the Suez crisis on the eve of the 1956 election."

Stevenson said he expected that the Republican response to criticism would be to say the Russians were hoping that a "softer" Democratic President will be elected in November.

In anticipation, he warned against those "who cry appeasement to any acknowledgment of our mistakes." He urged that the United States go into the forthcoming UN discussion of the crisis with constructive, positive, affirmative proposals to restore the hope of peace."

"This battle is not going to be determined by which side, in 10 years' time, produces the most steel, digs the most coal and oil from the ground, or even arrives first on the moon . . . The real question at issue is quite different. Who can organize the world in such a way that material wealth and economic power play their true part in human life, that is to say, not as ends in themselves, but as means by which man can live freely and defend his essential dignity?"

— Paul-Henri Spaak.

New Furor Over Smoking And Lung Cancer

In the strongest statement yet by a U. S. official on the matter, Surgeon General Leroy Burney named smoking as the chief cause of the sharp rise in lung cancer.

What is more, he said, no filter tip or tobacco treatment yet devised is effective in cutting out the tars suspected of causing cancer. Dr. Burney also said air pollution — industrial smog, automobile exhaust fumes — is another probable cause of lung cancer and is becoming more prevalent.

The views were expressed in an article written for the "Journal" of the American Medical Ass'n.

And Yet Shall He Live

A Final Message by Caryl Chessman

These words are not intended to be published unless the state of California has finally taken its vengeance upon me.

That, you see, is just what capital punishment is.

Now that the state has had its vengeance, I should like to ask the world to consider what has been gained.

I know that there are many who say that the presence of Caryl Chessman upon this earth is a menace to society. But society has had many other opportunities to keep Chessman from its midst. In fact, for nearly 12 years it was able to keep this poor human, Caryl Chessman, from intruding upon any one's property or privacy.

Capital punishment, it is said, is applicable to those who cannot be rehabilitated. Yet the Caryl Chessman who came to Death Row so long ago, and the Caryl Chessman who was poisoned by gas fumes, were quite different persons.

I feel that I had a useful life ahead of me, had the state been interested in justice, instead of vengeance. Perhaps my books were not masterpieces of literature, but they were readable and printable, and possibly offered some contribution to human thought. There might have been more and better books.

You have asked me if I am sorry, and I tell you I am. I am sorry for a childhood that was wasted. It seems irony that most of my later childhood was spent in institutions that were designed to correct my ways and mend my manners.

They failed to do that and, I am sorry. I failed to respond to that treatment. Yet it seems to me that someone could have penetrated to me, someone could have reached me when I was only a perplexed and befuddled boy.

That is the time to stop crime, to rehabilitate. Boys can be reached and changed, and that is a job society must accomplish.

Now I am gone. Whatever use I might have been to society is canceled by an act of vengeance.

Capital punishment is not a penalty. Many times, in these last few years, I have realized it might be a blessing — to end this tormented struggle and this inhuman harassment.

I have seen the poor, the friendless, the mentally ill, led to the chamber of execution. I have felt that society has, each time, shirked its responsibility. These were the mistakes of civilization. Instead of correcting the mistakes, society erases them. Out of sight, out of mind.

You asked me if I have a confession to make. I have not. In my lifetime I was guilty of many crimes but not these for which my life was taken. You ask me about a future life. I believe there is none. Caryl Chessman has gone to oblivion, so that society can forget one sorry lifetime.

True Also Today . . .

The various modes of worship, which prevailed in the Roman world, were all considered by the mass of people to be equally true; by the philosopher as equally false; and by the magistrate as equally useful.

— Gibbon, the Historian.

Sorry!

Some of our readers who ordered the following books and were disappointed because we were out of stock, and the books were out of print and unavailable, will be pleased to learn that we have obtained a small supply, so order again, now, before we sell out.

THE STAR GAZER

A novel of the life of Galileo
by Zsolt de Harsanyi 1.45

THE BIRTH OF THE GOSPEL

by William B. Smith 2.00

THE TRUTH ABOUT LINCOLN

by Ira D. Cardiff 1.00

THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU MAD

by Lee Smith25

HE LIVING THOUGHTS OF MACHIAVELLI

by Count Carlo Sforza50

MAN AND HIS GODS

by Homer W. Smith 1.25

Just received from England:

HISTORY OF THE RISE AND INFLUENCE OF RATIONALISM IN EUROPE

by W. E. H. Lecky 3.00

THE PAPACY IN POLITICS TODAY

by Joseph McCabe65

A SHORT HISTORY OF SEX WORSHIP

by H. Cutner65

WHY I LEFT THE CHURCH

by Joseph McCabe40

GOD AND THE UNIVERSE

by Chapman Cohen75

THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING

by Sir Francis Bacon 1.65

We also have:

DISCOVERIES AND OPINIONS OF GALILEO

transl. by Stillman Drake 1.25

OF THE NATURE OF THINGS

by Lucretius 1.10

RELIGIOUS EXPLOITATION OF

THE CHILD

by H. F. Haas 1.00

HISTORY OF SATANISM

by Joseph McCabe30

BOOK SERVICE

Rationalist Association

616 N. Pine Ave. Chicago 44, Ill.

The Passing Parade

by EDD DOERR

UNITED WE FALL?

Note: In this issue Mr. Doerr presents a timely article instead of his usual series of pointed paragraphs. — Editor.

State by state, community by community, a powerful new movement is steadily spreading across our country, eroding our (alas! imperfect) democratic way of life and turning back the clock of social progress. The movement to which I refer has the innocent-sounding theme of "federated fund raising" and in organizational form in local communities is usually called a "United Fund" or "United Community Fund" or something quite similar. As this growing movement, involving many millions of people and many millions of dollars, has been rather neglected by the liberal press, I propose to show that the motto "United We Stand", at least when applied to philanthropic "fund extraction", may be quite the reverse of true.

Central to the appeal of the United Fund movement is the promise that it will bring order and simplicity out of the present chaos of fund raising for health, welfare and even "character-building" agencies, both small and large, both local and national in scope, which compete for the citizen's charity dollar. Donors to United Fund campaigns are told that they need make but one contribution per year to take care of all their charitable and philanthropic obligations. The United Fund idea might be good if the above were true, but it is not. In communities where a United Fund conducts an annual drive, it is only rarely that the member agencies receive all the funds which they believe they require, with the result that a great many of the United Fund member agencies are forced to resort to additional separate fund drives which obviously defeat the purpose of federated fund raising. Further, a number of national health agencies, such as the National (polio) Foundation and the Heart Fund, have refused to allow any of their local chapters to affiliate with United Funds for the quite valid reason that significant medical research can be sponsored most efficiently on a national level. Efforts by United Funds to sponsor significant and extensive re-

search have generally been miserable failures, and almost necessarily so.

But to get on, I would like to comment that only a fool (or a character from an Ambrose Bierce yarn) would burn down his house to get rid of the mice. I feel that the weight of evidence and reason leads to the conclusion that the United Fund idea and institution (as presently constituted) is equivalent to house-burning as a mouse exterminating method, that it is fundamentally inimical to the best interests of our country and poses a definite threat to our evolving democratic way of life. The reasons for this conclusion are stated below, though not necessarily in the order of their importance.

The United Fund is not particularly democratic, has distinct authoritarian and totalitarian tendencies, is usually quite intolerant of competition. In most communities (and let me hasten to point out that the worst United Fund abuses are to be found in the larger communities, for reasons too numerous to even list here) and the United Fund organization is dominated by the special and monied interests which usually dominate the community, and these not infrequently for the most selfish and unworthy reasons, which should be obvious to the discerning reader. John Seeley, a Canadian sociologist, and his colleagues, in their monumental study of American fund raising, "Community Chest" (University of Toronto, 1954), point out that "The typical (Community Chest or United Fund) compromise is to extend the nominal governorship of the institution, while effectively concentrating power in 'committees' in which the 'elite' or community power group is disproportionately represented." In actual practice, this means that the individual charitable donor is usually told how much he should donate and is given no control whatever over the uses to which his charitable dollar will be put, regardless of any contrary claims made by the sincerity-dripping United Fund publicity folks. Further, payroll deduction plans used by the United Fund give this form of fund raising a tax-like aspect which should (but rarely does) elicit the cry that "taxation without representation is tyranny." As I see it, if a community wants socialized medicine or perhaps socialized health, welfare and "character-building" services, the issue should be decided by the voters, and, if passed, the program should be administered by democratic procedures subject to proper democratic controls.

That the United Fund, in practice, is dictatorial and discriminatory is undeniable. In one

large midwestern city, for example, a United Fund collected funds in the name of the local Service Men's Center and then attempted to withhold the collected funds from this agency. In the same city and in countless others, chapters of the Planned Parenthood Federation — a most worthy and valuable agency, have been barred from participation in federated fund drives, an indication of the strength of Roman Catholic influence and the weakness of the democratic secularism of non-Catholics.

As for United Fund intolerance toward competition, in a staggeringly significant number of communities where the United Fund star is on the ascendancy, participation by private citizens in fund raising viewed as competitive by United Funders is held to be just slightly short of immoral and subversive, is criticized vehemently by the conservative and wishy-washy press, and is more than occasionally met with the most frightening forms of social and economic pressure. The intolerance of the United Funders has made increasingly difficult the work of the independent national health organizations, such as the National Foundation which produced the Salk vaccine, established and supports polio treatment and rehabilitation centers and provides generous financial assistance for the training of medical personnel.

Also of great importance is the fact that United Funds usually support a larger number of exclusive, sectarian agencies, such as homes for the aged of particular sects (which presumably would not accept clients of different religious faiths), Catholic charitable organizations (which duplicate the services of and compete with various public and non-sectarian agencies in the same manner and for the same reason that parochial schools compete with public schools), the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO; a sectarian social body designed to insulate young Catholics against non-Catholic influences), and other clearly sectarian agencies. The partial or total support of these sectarian institutions by United Funds not only provides additional revenue for sectarian agencies (allowing the sects involved to concentrate more financial attention upon their missions and other non-United-Fund-subsidized agencies), but also constitutes a complete reversal of the sociological process of secularization which has been largely responsible for lifting our society out of medievalism to its present level of semi-civilization. Thus, every donation to a major community's United Fund is a contribution to sectarianism, religious segregation and other processes intended to desecularize our society.

It might also be pointed out that giving, or being forced to give, to federated fund drives robs charitable giving of its spontaneity and voluntariness, and tends to reduce overall per capita giving. Instead of aiding philanthropy and voluntary charity, federated fund raising (at least in its present form) does it a profound disservice.

In view of the above, I feel that all charitable donations should be sent or given by the donor directly to those health, welfare and "character-building" agencies which the donor personally deems worthy. I also believe that no United Fund or other federated fund raising organization deserves any support whatever until and unless it completely corrects the abuses cited in this article. The democratic way of life in our country has a tough enough row to hoe without our supporting organizations which all too often work to weaken it. Liberals would do well to work toward the reform of fund raising in their local communities, even though they will frequently meet with determined and sometimes vicious opposition from various economic and religious vested interests.

★ **HEAVENLY HUMOR**

418 Anti-Clerical Jokes

★ **HEAVENLY HUMOR**

Freethought's Only Joke Book

★ **HEAVENLY HUMOR**

Unique - Hilarious - Biting

★ **HEAVENLY HUMOR**

A Wonderful Present

Get your copy before the first edition
is sold out — \$1.25

THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST

616 N. Pine Ave. Chicago 44, Ill.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

offered to readers of
The American Rationalist
at \$120.00

Payable, if preferred, within a two-year period. The Rationalist Association is incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri as a non-profit organization.

For information write to:

RATIONALIST ASSOCIATION

616 N. Pine Ave. Chicago 44, Illinois

Heavenly Humor

by THE EDITOR

How to Succeed

Gary Cobbel, 6, told his mother how he got to be president of his Sunday school class.

It all happened, he said, when the teacher called the roll. "I answered 'president,'" Gary said. "Usually I just say 'here'."

* * *

Pulpit Reaction

The preacher was all fire and brimstone as he preached about the Ten Commandments, and one member of his congregation was evidently quite crushed by the sermon. This man seemed to snap back a bit after it was all over and he turned to the person sitting next to him and remarked, "Well, anyway, I've never made a graven image."

* * *

Another Pulpit Reaction.

This particular preacher, angered over the theft of his pet chicken, decided to strongly sermonize about thievery that very next Sunday.

As he started his sermon, for all the men knew what was coming, the preacher finally came to the part to strongly emphasize honesty, but overcome at the thought of Effie (that was his chicken's name) giving someone gas pains, he angrily said: "Yes, you steal chickens, you steal geese, you steal turkeys!" and he continued his tirade to the very end of the sermon.

On the way out, one of the elders, mopping his brow, was heard to mutter: "Whew — If he would have mentioned ducks, he sure would have had me!"

* * *

A bill legalizing machine guns in Michigan — backed by some undertakers — met defeat in the State Senate.

John Lesinski of Detroit introduced the bill on behalf of a group of gun collectors. One gun fancier, a funeral director, got several fellow morticians to write letters to the Senate.

But Senator Charles Blondy of Detroit protested: "It's an outrage! They're not killing people fast enough so the funeral directors want a bill to legalize machine guns."

* * *

In an off-the-cuff news conference aboard his special train — touring France, Soviet Premier Khrushchev expounded on Christianity. He said:

"There is much in Christ common to us Communists. Only I cannot agree with Him when He says that when you are hit on the right cheek you should turn the left.

"I believe in another principle. If someone hits me on the right cheek I hit him on the left cheek so hard his head may fall off. — This is my sole difference with Christ."

* * *

An elderly gentleman who had lived as a bachelor all his life had accumulated a considerable estate and began to worry because he had no heir to inherit his fortune. It occurred to him that there was also in his community an elderly lady who likewise had never married and who herself had a sizeable estate, but was without an heir to inherit her property. The gentleman decided to discuss their mutual situation to see if anything

might be arranged of mutual interest. Both of them agreed that because of their advanced ages perhaps they should consult their minister to see what he would advise.

After an appointment was made with the minister he listened patiently to their story, and then reminded them that even though they married, because of their advanced ages there might be no heir to inherit their combined fortunes. — They agreed, realizing that he was correct in the matter. The minister then ended the interview by telling his two elderly and wellmeaning friends: "The trouble with you folks is that you are heir-minded all right, but you are not heir-conditioned."

Submitted by Mrs. Alvin R. Thurber of San Gabriel:

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my get-up and go has got up and went.
But in spite of it all, I am able to grin
When I recall where my get-up has been.

Old age is golden, so I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder when I get into bed,
With my ears in a drawer and my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I get up.

E're sleep dims my eyes I say to myself:
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
And I'm happy to say, as I close the door,
My friends are the same, perhaps even more!

I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
Pick up my paper and read the "obits."
If my name is missing I know I'm not dead,
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed!

* * *

It was just a century ago, during much the same kind of critical election year we face today, that Abraham Lincoln made his earthy comment on responsibility at the polls:

"It is the people's business. The election is in their hands. If they turn their backs to the fire and get scorched in the rear, they'll find that they have got to sit on the blister."

* * *

The Man Who Saw God

Once upon a time a man died, and after he had been dead for two months, scientists perfected a method of bringing people back to life with all kinds of chemicals, hormones and things.

So they brought this man back to life, and the first thing they all asked him when he became conscious again was: "What's Heaven like? What's God like? Please tell us — you've been there."

But the man just wanted to be alone. They kept begging him: "Please tell us what is the nature of God?"

"Ask me anything else," the man said, "but not that." — Hundreds of important people kept coming and pleading with him. "Look," he said, "if I told you, it would take you two hundred years to adjust. Please, please leave me alone!"

But they kept nudging him, and finally his patience gave out. "All right," he said, "but I warned you. First of all, she's colored . . ."

— The Realist.

* * *

We orbit a satellite with TV cameras aboard. Nobody can say we're behind the Russians in keeping track of how far ahead they are.

READERS' FORUM

Dear Editor:

First, I want to congratulate you on being able to launch your Life Science project. I sincerely wish you every success with it.

The proposed Home for Elderly Citizens is very much worth while and right in line with modern developments. I can see only one drawback — it's too far from Indiana.

I have been reading the last recent issue of **The Rationalist** with considerable interest, and perhaps somewhat critical interest, and I think each issue shows a lot of improvement over its predecessors.

Very sincerely,

Louis E. Bokout, Indiana.

• • •

Dear Mr. Hewson:

I enjoyed greatly your article on juvenile delinquency. It is very much to the point and a most sensible attitude. Tuesday's press from the Youth meetings at the White House reported two addresses with reference to the relation of TV to juvenile delinquency which I think are a couple of the best which have appeared in many months. If you didn't happen to see these, I suggest you look them up.

Cordially,

Ira D. Cardiff.

• • •

Dear Editor:

My copy of your March-April issue of AR just arrived; better than ever, and it ranks at the top of the dozen or more freethought publications to which I subscribe . . . I just do not want to miss anything in this field.

It is difficult to point out the most outstanding article in this issue, because they're all good. But the one titled, "Should Churches Pay Taxes?" was particularly significant and timely . . . I think it is a splendid idea to print pictures of your Staff and thus be better acquainted with your readers. Handsome movie stars have nothing on Dr. Negri, Lowell Coate, Arthur Hewson, et al.

My subscription is about to expire so I inclose five bucks for renewal. Atheists, agnostics, and other freethinkers are conspicuously absent down here in this southern Texas valley. — Some of the tourists become non-communicants while wintering here, being glad to get relief from monotonous sermons back home, you know.

Most sincerely,

E. C. Naegel, Texas.

• • •

Dear Editor:

If each of us who is able would pledge to give each month a year's subscription to an acquaintance who is "on the fence" or to one with an open mind, we could increase the circulation tremendously and make the **American Rationalist** a great influence in our cause, which is but the seeking of truth and understanding and hence the destruction of myths and superstitions which are the warp and woof of organized orthodox religions. To start this ball rolling I inclose my check for \$3.00 for a year's subscription to the party whose name appears below . . .

The Church has nothing to offer but archaic superstitions based on a personal God who is al-

ternately loving and cruel, and a Devil who is always cruel. This is "belief." This is all the faithful get for their money. There is not and cannot be proof of anything else.

Very sincerely,

Alex De Graw, California.

• • •

The Editor,

Time and Life Building,

New York City 20.

Dear Sir:—

The suggestion that the Catholic church is likely to take a firm stand for religious freedom borders on the ridiculous in spite of the Max Pribilla quote. (Religion 3/21).

Surrender of its claim to being the "one true" church which this would entail would mean its downfall and the Vatican isn't presiding over that.

These specious and equivocal pronouncements are made deliberately to foster the implication that there is a "modern" Catholicism. This mirage is created to disarm opponents of their outreach for political power to enable them eventually to throttle what the hierarchy calls "error."

In Latin America, where they have that power, consider the result. For 450 years, the conquered peoples have known nothing but poverty, ignorance and human degradation.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur B. Hewson, Chicago 44.

• • •

Dear Editor:

One of the most annoying of offenses committed by those stooges of the Church who happen to be holding positions of importance in governmental departments, legislative and executive, is the imposition of religious mottoes and other such propaganda on people who are not interested in spreading such propaganda or are, indeed, opposed to being the bearers of such drivel. In addition to the annoyance thus caused to uninterested and free-thinking persons, the imprinting of such sentiments on mail matter of citizens, who have not given consent for such publishing, constitutes a flagrant offense against separation of Church and State.

I was irritated when I first received a letter bearing the "Pray for Peace" motto: I resented it and protested to the Postmaster General. It strikes me that if all freethinkers would write similar letters of protest to the Postal authorities and to their congressmen something might be accomplished in the way of putting an end to such practice. At any rate we should by such concerted action have made protest in unison, and such as could hardly be lightly ignored.

The Catholic congressman from Michigan who introduced and obtained the passage of the legislation providing for the "Pray for Peace" motto is the same who is responsible for the adulteration of the Pledge to the Flag by the insertion of the "under God" phrase. It is apparent that this member of the House is more interested in serving the Pope than he is in serving his state or the nation. But all congressmen who supported the legislation are guilty of effectively joining church and state in propagandizing the citizenry.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. W. Plumleigh, Calif.

Dear friends:

This letter's purpose is to save you money. If you plan on buying rationalist books or circulars, now is the time to do it.

Printing costs are fantastic. Linotyping costs \$9.00 per hour, half of which goes to the operator. On a 35-hour week it takes extra time to get printing. Delays in obtaining books run to three months. The religious promoters do not have to worry about such things.

The American people, brainstuffed from childhood with religious propaganda, usually have their minds closed to rationalism before they reach maturity. Only a few remain free to doubt and investigate. So the market for rationalist literature is limited. Because of this and the prohibition by the press, radio and TV of rationalist advertising, rationalist literature must be printed in small and more costly unit editions.

During this crucial year, when Rome's long-time project of "making America Catholic," is about to attain its goal by putting Kennedy in the White House, it is more important than ever that the fearless and factual literature exposing the Catholic Church be widely distributed. This country is now being subjected to the most insidious and massive brainwashing propaganda in the nation's history condemning all patriots who prove the evils of Catholicism, as being bigots. The one-sided propaganda by the press, radio, and TV does not tell the public that practically all South American Catholic Countries have provisions in their constitutions **prohibiting anyone but a Catholic from being president**, nor of the murder of non-Catholics in Colombia, of their imprisonment in Spain, and the persecution of Masons and Protestants in Italy. No criticism of Catholic evils is permitted in the press or radio and TV. — So cowed are most Protestant preachers by the massive shout of "bigot!" that they either fall in line with the bigoteers or keep quiet. If this product of life-long Papal indoctrination is elected, the gains of the American Revolution will be lost, the blood and hardships of that war and others will have been completely wasted. Certainly there is one man in 180,000,000 not indoctrinated with Catholic superstitions who could be President.

Now is the time to buy and distribute this literature, while it is still available at low prices. If the trend continues, some day you will not be able to do it! Inform yourself so you can inform others so that our hard won liberties can be defended!

Sincerely,

James Hervey Johnson,
Box 2832, San Diego 12, Calif.

* * *

Dear Editor:

We happened to stop in a small corner restaurant recently where a group of today's average young men were eating. The only song the juke box played was "Lonely Street". No rock'n'roll. No jazz. Just this one song of utter despair, of complete lonesomeness.

And these young men looked just as sad as this melancholy melody.

Have you heard this dirge? It is a heart-rending tune. It lasts and is played when other happy songs are forgot. It is not a dance tune — unless it be a dance of death. It is sombre, morbid, hopeless.

Hundreds of these young people see only death, destruction, and meaninglessness in today's world. The churches lure them, but have nothing to offer that is realistic, full of hope, of life fulfillment.

It is up to us Rationalists to have a meaningful, positive program to offer the youth of the world. First, of course, we must start in our own back yards, to cultivate our gardens of hopeful humanity, seeking life, liberty, and the pursuit of truth.

What is truth? It is the reality around us. What is the reality around us? It is what we can perceive with our five senses, plus what we can understand with our thoughts based upon scientific facts. Constant objective analysis of our environment must be made; and new syntheses built.

Today cultural change is lagging far behind scientific advancement in the physical sciences. Yet our great American seer, Edward Bellamy, saw all this when he wrote "Looking Backward," and its greater sequel, "Equality," back in 1897. Edw. Bellamy saw and prophesied the greatest inventions of our age, and much more! He showed us the way to achieve the necessary social advances so needed for a rational social system in keeping with our great economy of abundance. The old economy of scarcity had its rationale in distribution thru competition. — The new economy of abundance demands a new rational system of distribution thru cooperation. And now, our very survival demands this change.

May all Rationalists rally round this most rational goal!

Sincerely,

Philip S. Hensel.

* * *

Dear Editor:

A major effort is being made by the ACLU, at this writing, to repeal the loyalty oath provision of the National Defense Education Act, in company with President Eisenhower, Vice-President Nixon, Senator Kennedy, and Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and other distinguished institutions.

The ACLU does not always have such popular principles for which to fight. As we look back over the last tense, crowded forty years, we can recall many instances where even our friends wished we had selected more popular people to defend.

But popular or not, your rights have been more than vigorously defended by the Union whenever they have been in jeopardy. And the ACLU will continue its fight for freedom of speech, due process of law, and equal protection in our courts ... for all men.

At this moment, we are directly handling the cases of courageous young Negro college students who, by passive resistance, have been breaking down discrimination at lunch counters in the South, in Tallahassee, Raleigh, and Suffolk, Virginia.

The ACLU and its affiliates in twenty-four states function in all governmental areas — the courts and legislatures; before federal, state and local executive departments; and in the forum of public opinion.

You believe in our aims — will you join with us?

Stand with 48,000 informed, freedom-loving Americans who belong to the ACLU. Support our efforts to advance democracy. We need and welcome the support of every American whose devotion to civil liberties is not qualified by ad-

herence to Communist, Fascist, KKK, or other totalitarian doctrine. YOU are needed now!

I hope you will become a member, with whatever dues you can afford. You will be joining thousands who, like you, believe in keeping America a home of freedom.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Murphy Malin,

Executive Director, ACLU.

The Postmaster General
Post Office Department
Washington, D.C.
Dear Sir:

I have just noted for the first time the beautiful 8-cent postage stamp commemorating that great champion of liberty Simon Bolivar.

With all due respect to the heroic exploits of this South American liberator and others like him, I consider it the proper duty of the Post Office Department to duly honor all its own domestic heroes and public benefactors before paying homage to foreign ones.

For example, proper recognition and homage is long overdue our own great hero, public benefactor and Revolutionary leader and champion of liberty par excellence — Thomas Paine. It was Thomas Paine who liberated this country in the true sense of the word from the tyrannies of Great Britain, and in doing so struck a note for liberty for all mankind as well as for his contemporaries of his own day and those who followed unto this very day.

Thomas Paine, almost on a par with George Washington, deserves to be honored on the face of every dollar bill. Yet the Post Office, to its shame, has never issued a stamp in honor of this great patriot, author, soldier, and liberator first-class.

Whatever Simon Bolivar did for his country, I'm sure our own Thomas Paine did as much or more for our country, and other countries, and deserves a beautiful and fitting stamp and universal recognition before Simon Bolivar.

I urge that this be done in the very near future.

Admirer of Thomas Paine,

Andy Vena, Phila., Pa.

FIRST BIG CENSUS VICTORY!

"The census man called at the White House — and found Ike at home.

— Potomac Fever.

The government reports the cost of living went up again.

Republicans plead for just three more tries — and they'll get it into orbit.

OBNOXIOUS KIDS

When teacher Stirling McDowell (Saskatoon, Sask.) read the following description of youth at the opening of a new school there were nods of agreement:

"Our youth now loves luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority, disrespect for older people. Children nowadays are tyrants. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before visiting people, gobble their food and tyrannize their teachers."

Socrates wrote it in the fifth century BC.

The American Rationalist Expansion Fund

Following are listed the Rationalists who have backed their convictions with their dollars:—

Deutscher Schulverein	Mo.	\$10.00
Annamarie Bergman	Calif.	5.00
Chauncey L. Turner	Calif.	5.00
L. K. Whittemore	Ohio	5.00
Herman Stern - Life Membership	N. Y.	20.00
Ralph Luscioni	Ill.	.55
Otto Dornbusch	Bolivia	4.00
I. Glenn Foster	Pa.	10.00
Eldon and Norma Scholl	Mo.	25.00
Edward Florito	N. Y.	.50
Geo. L. Smith	Calif.	5.00
T. C. Robbins	Fla.	25.00
John W. Coursell	Ill.	5.00
Earle Rowland	Mich.	5.00
Lowell H. Coate	Calif.	100.00
Richard O. Pitner	Ala.	5.00
Robt. C. Essex	Ohio	10.00
Arthur B. Hewson	Ill.	200.00
A. Semler	Ore.	10.00

The supporters of supernatural fantasy contribute weekly. Surely a Freethinker who really is dedicated to education for reality can contribute bi-monthly to further his cause! Real civilization will be a long time coming otherwise.

Arthur B. Hewson, Treasurer.

DARWIN ON DARWIN

In his old age, some 15 years after the appearance of his "Origin of Species" in 1859, Charles Darwin set down an autobiographical record for his own amusement and that of his children. It included some analyses of the Christian faith that were shocking to Darwin's wife and to at least one of the Darwin daughters.

In deference to the matriarch of the clan, Francis, the son, finally capitulated; the offensive passages on religion were suppressed.

To tell the truth, the restored passages, as they appear in an attractive book which also contains some other Darwin material, add little to the older expurgated editions. What they amount to is a tepid confession of agnosticism, plus a statement that it would be "damnable doctrine" to believe that Hindus, Buddhists and Charles Darwin's own father Robert and brother Erasmus must be consigned to everlasting hell merely because they could not credit the "miracles by which Christianity is supported."

— Wall Street Journal

Congressman Clarence Cannon Says —

"We wouldn't have to spend near the money we do if it were not for the lobbyists and the munitions makers. They thrive on wars and the threat of wars. If we declared peace, they would go broke."

The United States Government is in no sense founded upon the Christian religion.

— President George Washington
in address to Congress 1795.

BOOKS

"PICTORIAL HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY"

by Dagobert D. Runes

This magnificent book is of value for people who are fascinated by history. It is not complete in its accounts of lives, as it concentrates on the events related to the thinking of the philosophers, but for the person who loves to read of the past, without seeking comprehensive detail, it is a great success.

This is not a history of philosophy in a deep sense. The discussions of ideas are necessarily brief and often superficial. Furthermore, no one author could investigate satisfactorily the thinking of hundreds of men, nor could any one volume give so many fine illustrations and yet examine ideas. It is a leisure-time browsing book for the educated person.

The illustrations are based on paintings, busts, sketches, manuscripts, and photographs. There are around one thousand. Although little information is given about them they are quite interesting for themselves.

The book is of large size, with over four hundred pages of strong paper. The writing is always interesting, as Runes has definite opinions and style.

— Harry E. Mongold

Philosophical Library, \$15.00. Order from AR Book Service.

"THE FIRST CHRISTIAN"

by A. Powell Davies

This is a study of Paul and his effects on the early Christian church. The author examines the story of the early church as portrayed in the New Testament and how it conflicts with the views of the various Biblical scholars. He then states the conclusions he himself has drawn.

It is pointed out how the new movement was affected by pagan as well as Jewish influences. There is much emphasis on the conflict between the Jews who followed Peter and the Gentiles who followed Paul.

The book will interest those who are struggling to free themselves from orthodoxy and those who enjoy historical studies.

— Nan Mongold

Mentor, 60c. Order from AR Book Service.

"KARL MARX: HIS LIFE AND ENVIRONMENT"

by Isalah Berlin

Herein we see Marx as a sincere rationalist and humanist, and an intellectual giant. He was a thinker by the scientific method, always seeking root causes. The humanist part of him, as this writer sees it, was the emotional fervor he brought to his work. It is for this reason that many humanists prefer to term their beliefs a religion, and similarly, many students of Marx call Communism — in its pure, ideal form — a religion.

Be that as it may, Prof. Berlin writes with scholarly breadth a most comprehensive book on this controversial figure. Since rationalists are, in essence, truth-seekers, they may well read this

book to balance adverse opinion. When both sides get a hearing, truth has a chance.

Philip S. Hensel

Paperbound Galaxy book, Oxford, \$1.60. Order from AR Book Service.

* * *

"DIALOGUE ON SANTAYANA"

edited by Corliss Lamont and Mary Redmer

While reading this book a person actually feels himself a member of the group who are discussing their friend and acquaintance, George Santayana. Through the comments and reminiscences of his former colleagues, Santayana becomes a living personality.

I was especially interested in the philosopher's attitude toward churchgoing, since I had previously read conflicting stories about how he regarded religion.

— Nan Mongold

Horizon, \$2.50. Order from AR Book Service.

* * *

"A BRIEF DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN SUPERSTITIONS"

by Vergilius Ferm

This time Dr. Ferm has done something different. We have here an intriguing addition to the reference shelf — a book to browse in, to muse over, to get down when the conversation turns to superstitions. It must have been fun to compile and is fun to own, along with Stefansson's "Adventures in Error," Wiggam's "Sorry, But You're Wrong About It," Pitkin's "Short Introduction to the History of Stupidity," and Bergen Evan's "Natural History of Nonsense."

Dr. Ferma points out the connection between theology and superstition. As the small boy said, "Faith is believing what you know ain't so."

But superstition "can weigh a person down with the most fearful of fears, and chain his every act into a fitful self-consciousness . . . In a world so uncertain as ours, with the possibilities so complex, superstition will continue to flourish among minds sensitive to the hazards of everyday living."

— Kay Vining

Philosophical Library, \$6.00. Order from AR Book Service.

* * *

SHORT REVIEWS

"Life's Basic Philosophy," L. Hlavacek

Guide, 25c. Pamphlet urging that one make life purposeful.

* * *

"Continuity and Number" B. Goussinsky

Israel, 60c. Thought-provoking discussion of the nature of numbers and space. Useful but needs revision.

* * *

"Dialogue on John Dewey," Lamont and Redmer
Horizon, \$2.50. Eleven educators and writers, Dr. Dewey's friends, discuss informally his personal and professional life. Anecdotes and commentary make pleasant reading.

* * *

"The Rationalist Challenge and Faith in Man"

Reprint series. The lesson of the dinosaurs is, adjust or die. Only rational intelligence can successfully meet the challenge of change. Man's record shows there have always been enough sparks of this intelligence.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- "FREEMASONRY, A SLEEPING GIANT"
by Charles Van Cott, Denison.
"REASON FOR LIVING"
by Walter R. Dent, Vantage.
"DICTIONARY OF THOUGHT"
by Dagobert D. Runes, Phil. Library.
"SAINTS IN ARMS" by Leo F. Solt, Stanford.
"MY PHILOSOPHICAL DEVELOPMENT"
by Bertrand Russell, Simon and Schuster.
"BIRTH CONTROL AND CATHOLIC DOCTRINE"
by Alvah W. Sulloway, Beacon.
"THE POWER ELITE"
by C. Wright Mills, Liberty Book Club.
"WHEN MINDS GO WRONG"
J. M. Grimes, Devin Adair.
"DIALOGUE ON JOHN DEWEY"
by Lamont and Redmer, Horizon.
"DIALOGUE ON GEORGE SANTAYANA"
by Lamont and Redmer, Horizon.
"COMMONWEALTH OF AMERICANS"
by B. D. Murray, Philosophical Library.
"JOHN DEWEY: DICTIONARY OF EDUCATION"
ed. by Winn, Philosophical Library.
"PICTORIAL HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY"
by Runes, Philosophical Library.
"THE SADIST GOD" by Jack Bays.

Automation

Last year, the efforts of ten thousand men
Were needed here. Today the presses pound,
Conveyors groan and flywheels turn as then
But less than fifty people can be found
Within these walls. These few are engineers
Who study dials, change settings and make charts
While Automatically the tireless gears
Grind out new products for the waiting marts.

So comes Utopia! With growing speed,
Plant after plant now turns to these machines
That work untended, day and night, and need
No rest, nor food nor wages. What this means
Is ample goods, low prices, dividends;
If world demand falls off, a switch is thrown,
Expenses dwindle when production ends.
Thus experts say, our future is foreshown,

But tell me, you who plan this paradise,
Can these machines consume the goods they make?
And where are the markets for your paradise
If homes are wageless? Will you undertake
To give these displaced men new ways to earn
Their bread in fields machines can not invade?
Must they sit, idle — lacking ways to turn —
With folded hands, bewildered and betrayed?

I have no answers. I can only pose
The questions rising as your plans evolve:
That you must face before acceptance grows
To anger — then resentment — then resolve
To end a world in which men have no place
With fist and fire and club. There chaos lies!
And, to avoid it, you must plan apace.
Neglect these people — and your bright world dies!

— Garth Bently.

Religious Census Results

From CHICAGO MAROON - U of C, - Nov. 6, 1959.

The number of UC students having no religious preference is greater than the number of students who belong to any one religious group.

An analysis of the 5,743 census cards that students filled out during Autumn registration shows that —

1,244 students, approximately 22 percent of those filling out cards, have no religious affiliation.

The largest composite group, containing 12 Protestant denominations, numbered 2,050, including:—

- 344 Lutherans
- 343 Presbyterians
- 312 Methodists

others:—

- 1,233 Jewish
- 685 Roman Catholics
- 71 Eastern Orthodox Catholics
- 451 unspecified religions

"These statistics are rather heartening," said William Blakemore, Dean of Disciples Divinity house.

"In the United States, approximately 37 percent of all families have no church affiliations, so the percentage of UC students expressing no religious preference is less than one might expect."

Comment: — Originally Chicago University was primarily a Baptist institution — backed by the Rockefeller family.

In the above statistics the Baptists aren't even mentioned!

Incidentally, here are some figures; as shown in the Chicago Tribune of January 15, 1959, Part 2, Page 6: In Congress:

- 90 Methodists
- 79 Roman Catholics
- 62 Baptists
- 56 Presbyterians
- 51 Episcopalians
- 79 No religious Affiliation

By: Frank Rikerd Gilligan, Chicago, Ill.

IS IT TRUE?

When Christians say all other creeds
Are based on fallacy —
Is it not true to say the same
Of Christianity?

WHAT FAITH DOES

With Faith sufficient, we obtain
A Vision, bright and fair —
Which, strange but true, enables folks
To see what isn't there.

A REPUBLICAN (?) PRIEST AT LAST!

Because the majority of the Republican members of the Maine legislature voted against public appropriations for bus transportation for parochial schools, the state's Republican convention faced a boycott by the Catholic Church for several weeks when it attempted to get a priest to serve as one of the clergymen offering prayers. Seven Catholic priests declined, and some declared that their refusal was based upon the Republican policy on school buses. Finally, a charitable priest with Republican (?) leanings, the Rev. Francis E. Le-Tourneau of Orono, Maine, accepted the Republican invitation and vindicated the slightly sullied reputation of his church for non-partisanship.

— Church and State
June 1960

RIO CARDINAL WARNS BRAZIL CANDIDATES

Jaime Cardinal de Barros Camara, archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, says the Roman Catholic Church holds the right to denounce any Brazilian presidential candidate who does not respect the church's rights.

It was the first time in the Brazilian campaigns for the October 3 presidential election that the church has spoken up on politics. Brazil is about 95 percent Catholic.

In his regular weekly broadcast, the cardinal took care not to mention any candidate by name.

— Chicago Sun-Times
May 22, 1960

Ed:— This is how it is when the hierarchy is in the driver's seat.

JOHN S. KNIGHT COMMENTS . . .

Louis Matazaro, sole survivor of the recent plane crash in Pennsylvania, says "the Lord opened my side of the plane and I was able to jump out." . . . And He had no thought for the 24 fellow passengers who perished.

"Editors Notebook,
Chicago Daily News.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

Form of Bequest

I give, devise and bequeath to the Rationalist Association, Inc., a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri, the following property:

(Describe property)

to be used by the said corporation to promote Rationalism, Humanism, Freethought and Secularism through its official publication and otherwise.

.....
(Signed as required by the laws
of your State.)

THE WILL TO DOUBT

by Bertrand Russell

The Will to Doubt, makes human progress possible. The Catholic Church and all religion attempts to suppress this human instinct. A great book by a great philosopher, scientist and Rationalist. Cloth, 126 pages, published at \$2.75, a few left \$1.65

ROME'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

by Gen. Thomas M. Harris, 1897

He sat on the military commission which tried the conspirators. Mimeographed edition of the original now scarce book. \$1.00

THIRTY YEARS IN HELL

by ex-priest Bernard Fresenborg, 1903

He tells how Rome gains power over politicians, the Corruption of Romanism in the Philippines and Puerto Rico. The infiltration of Romanism into Government. How murder is committed in the name of Romanism. The curse pronounced upon excommunication. (Remember the Catholic Church preaches eternal Hell-torture for anyone who disbelieves the weird superstitions they seek to impose on all others.) — Mimeographed condensed edition \$1.00

SUPERIOR MEN

by James Hervey Johnson
and

Religion A Primitive Fable
by Dr. J. M. Wilson

Two powerful books summarizing the evidence and arguments against religious superstition, and in favor of Rationalism. Every Rationalist ought to have and lend or give these books to friends and family. Special, both books \$1.00

WHY I LEFT THE MINISTRY AND BECAME AN ATHEIST

by G. Vincent Runyon

Destined to be one of the greatest free-thought books ever written. Leatherette card cover \$1.00

SUPERIOR BOOKS

DEPT. AR BOX 2832
San Diego 12, California

THE WIDE, WIDE MOVEMENT

by ELDON SCHOLL



All organizations are urged to send in their news, programs, activities, elections, socials, past or future, and pictures of meetings, officers or members, or anything of interest to Rationalists.

The members of the FREE-THINKERS OF S. CALIFORNIA, continuing their policy of active cooperation and participation in world peace efforts as advocated by Dr. Linus Pauling at their 1960 Annual Banquet, gave their recent support to the May 1st Peace Award Dinner of the United World Federalists at the famed Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. The Freethinkers sponsored a large table of their own at this remarkable occasion.

With TV star, Steve Allen, acting as Master of Ceremonies, and such renowned names on the program as Sen. Richard Richards of California, and Governor G. Mennen Williams, of Michigan, as the principal speaker, it was indeed a notable affair. Its principal purpose was to honor Mr. Stanley Kramer, film producer, who was presented with a World Peace Commendation Scroll signed by the Nobel Prize Winners for the years 1949 and 1959, citing Mr. Kramer's vision and courage in producing such pictures as "The Defiant Ones" and particularly his latest film, "On the Beach," which, in the words of the Commendation, "focused the eyes of the world on the most fundamental issue of the human race today — the urgency of our common needs: World Peace, World Brotherhood, and Survival."

Dr. Lowell H. Coate, who had the honor of being first President of the United World Federalists in California, was a distinguished guest, as was also Dr. Vitali Negri — President of the Freethinkers of Southern California, along with other officers and members of the organization. Much credit for the success of this brilliant occasion went to our good friend, a frequent writer for the *American Rationalist* and other liberal and free-thought publications, as well as popular lecturer among numerous

similar Peace groups throughout this country and abroad, Peter Charlton. Raymond C. Simpson is the present UWF President in Los Angeles and has demonstrated his effective leadership on this occasion.

Other Recent Activities

At our April meeting Attorney MacArthur Propp, official parliamentarian for the Freethinkers of Southern California, presented a challenging address on "We Know the Truth, So What?" His provocative address raised several significant questions, such as:— What are Freethinkers doing to help the world we live in? Is denial of religious faith sufficient? What does truth gain us? Does scientific knowledge make man ethically better? Are Freethinkers necessarily the 'salt of the earth'? Is there more, less, or as much larceny, hate, and bigotry in the hearts and actions of Freethinkers as in those whom we consider less free and enlightened? — Many present also recalled Mr. Propp's previous lecture a year ago on "The Difference Between Justice and Legality." We all welcome Mr. Propp's challenging talks and his stimulating views.

At our recent May meeting Prof. Martin L. Bunge of Pasadena spoke on: "Benjamin Franklin, Benefactor of Humanity." Prof. Bunge was formerly with the California Institute of Technology, and also Interpreter of Scientific Data for the U. S. Government. We also enjoy his refreshing viewpoint and look forward to hearing him once again. He is a scholar, author, and editor, is a forceful speaker with a vast background of knowledge in philosophy, science, and comparative religions.

Every fourth Sunday of each month Dr. Vitali Negri, noted psychiatrist, author, and freethought leader, conducts his "American Institute of Universal Ethics," at which he lectures on the various phases of Psychoanalysis. Freethought members attend free of charge, and contributions given by non-members go to the General Fund of the Freethinkers of So. California.

We welcome you at the regular monthly Freethought meetings and at the American Institute of Universal Ethics. A dozen new members were recently welcomed into the Freethinkers Society of So. California, thus indicating a lively interest, healthy growth and real progress of the organization.

All Rationalists and freethinkers are invited to attend the Annual Convention of the AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION, again being held at the Recreation Camp near Genoa City, Wisconsin, not far from Chicago. Slides and movies of last year's convention

AR • CLASSIFIED COLUMN • AR

SUPERSTITION and MENTAL INDIFFERENCE — dangerous. Read the *RIPSAW* and be informed. — Sample copy 10c. *RIPSAW* - P.O. Box 3002, Sta. B. South Bend, Indiana.

"SEX, CENSORSHIP AND EDUCATION" - 48-page discussion of issues raised by Dr. Koch's dismissal from Illinois University; 50c each. **SCHOOL OF LIVING**, Brookville, Ohio.

BOUND VOLUME OF THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST — VOLUME TWO AND THREE — beautifully bound in maroon and gold stamped, are available for \$5.00 each. Limited Supply.

BOOK SERVICE AMERICAN RATIONALIST
616 No. Pine Avenue Chicago 44, Ill.

FOR SALE—Comic Postal Cards. Set of six. No. 1 to 6. Drawn by Ottokar. Price 5c each, all six for 25c. Order from **AMERICAN RATIONALIST**, 616 No. Pine Avenue, Chicago 44, Illinois.

LET US REASON TOGETHER, poem, by Fred Rosenberg, five cents each, 3 for 10c — 40 for \$1.00. Rationalist Publications, 616 No. Pine Avenue, Chicago 44, Illinois.

HERE IS THE HIGHEST MENTAL ADVENTURE, MAKE SELF-RESPECT YOUR RELIGION

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY

Box 192
Grand Central Annex, New York, N.Y.

INSURANCE AGENCY OF AMERICA

AUTO—FIRE—CASUALTY—BOND
LIFE—MARINE

6500 DELMAR PA Parkview 6-6400
ST. LOUIS 5, MO.

SOUTH AFRICAN RATIONALIST

MIMEOGRAPHED MONTHLY

\$1.00 yearly

P. O. Box 11221

Johannesburg, South Africa

will be shown at 8:00 p.m. on Aug. 12th, also the POAU movie entitled: "Captured." Registration begins on Saturday, August 13th at 9:00 a.m., the banquet at 7:00 p.m. The convention concludes at noon August 14th. Registration for all sessions is \$1.50, banquet \$4.00 (combination of both only \$5.00). Sleeping quarters in the rustic, beautiful Wisconsin hills, range from \$1.75 to \$2.50 per person per night. Enjoy stimulating lectures, hear Dr. Riddle, go swimming in the modern pool, hear what leaders are doing all over the country, discuss your problems with your friends. The Camp is located near Lake Geneva. The Greyhound bus lets you off at the camp gate. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad stops at Genoa City, (arrangements may be made to pick up train travelers) and the auto ride from Chicago is pleasant. You can't beat it for a low-cost vacation or a week end, with a purpose. Make the sixth annual convention a success with your presence. Write for registration and information (must be in before August 1st) to AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION — P.O. Box 255, Rockford, Illinois.

Joseph Lewis, President of the FREETHINKERS OF AMERICA, continued his public campaign with a radio address over Radio Station WMIE in Miami, Florida, on the subject:— "The Roman Catholic Church and Birth Control," stating that the "Church has always opposed intellectual advancement and particularly the progress of medical science. Our modern medicine is the greatest enemy to the 'profits of religion.' Religion opposed the dissection of the human body. It opposed vac-

cination. It opposes blood transfusion. It now opposes birth control." He urged listeners that birth control is not a sin, and that no one will be punished for its use, mentioning that one-third of the patients of the Marg. Sanger Clinic in New York are Catholics. He concluded: "It is your duty, as an independent human being, to defy this outrageous ban (on birth control). The right to knowledge of birth control is a basic, inherent, and unalienable right. It cannot be abridged or abrogated by any church, or any government."

Over the signature of its sec'y, the RATIONALIST PRESS ASSOCIATION, New York Chapter, wrote to John F. Kennedy on Capitol Hill, asking him his own opinion of the secret Catholic order Opus Dei, which operates in 42 countries, including the U.S. Its members are required to excel in their professions, lead an existence less frugal than is customary for brethren of the church and turn over all sums they do not need for professional advancement. In England they have infiltrated high positions in government, business and the educational system. The organization asks Mr. Kennedy if it is desirable that this order exists in our country and whether it is compatible with our Constitution.

In a light-hearted way, a columnist in the Star, Val D'Or, Canada, reported on Rationalists and about the official holiday of August 11th of the AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION, on Ingersoll's birthday. He said that from their literature the Rationalists "don't just sit around idly discussing the weather and their ills — no sir!"

Mentioning that the ARF opposes the idea that man is evil and cannot save himself he adds, "This encourages us a lot and almost has us persuaded to pay our dues in the organization." The ARF now has a blue and gold decal design of the Cirmid emblem, for members-at-large, or affiliated members.

"An Outline of Religious Persecution" was the title of a talk given by Mrs. Margaret Levinson at the Thos. Paine Forum of the FRIENDSHIP LIB'L LEAGUE in Philadelphia. Other recent lectures

The Oldest Freethought Journal
In the World

THE FREETHINKER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN LONDON
Celebrated its 75th anniversary recently and still attacks superstition with youthful vigor and intelligence.

Subscription \$5.00
a year for 52 issues.

The American Rationalist
616 N Pine Ave. Chicago 44, Ill.

Read The LIBERAL

A 24 page monthly journal of the Friendship Liberal League, devoted to freethought, rationalism, and topics of general interest to freethinkers.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 per year or
8 Months \$1.00, U.S. and Canada.
Foreign Countries \$2.00 per year.

FRIENDSHIP LIBERAL LEAGUE, Inc.
5233 North 5th Street
Philadelphia 20, Pa.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

(Please Note New Address of Magazine)

The American Rationalist
616 No. Pine Avenue
Chicago 44, Illinois

Please find inclosed \$..... for Year's
Subscription to The American Rationalist magazine. Also my
Contribution to the new Expansion Fund \$.....

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY ZONE STATE

"MARIA MONK"

A NUN'S LIFE IN A CONVENT

A BOOK OF FACTS!

A detailed description of black nunnery in Montreal. Twenty great chapters. Maria Monk, escaped nun, describes in detail the terrible experiences of helpless and defenceless girls within the high stone walls of the Hotel Dieu Nunnery at Montreal. The most terrible revelations ever recorded.

OVER 10,000,000 COPIES PRINTED
The most extensively read book on this vital and important subject. No book like this in print. Read this frightful, heart-breaking story and learn the truth concerning convent life. 106 burning pages. Postpaid only \$1.00. The edition is limited, so order at once.

GOSPEL BOOKS Dept AM-7
Rowan, Iowa

were: — "Religion in the Public Schools," by K. M. Whitten; "Constructive Criticism of the Liberals" by the prominent Quaker, G. Burton Parshall, "Pacifist Thoughts about Freedom", by Wallace Nelson; "Thoreau on Civil Disobedience," by Juanita Nelson; and "Sweitzer's Psychiatric Study of Jesus", by Prof. R. P. Lingle. The organization brings up the subject of libraries owned by Rationalists and cautions them to make arrangements so that they will not pass into hands of unsympathetic or uninterested relatives or others who will throw them into the rubbish heap. Many books are out of print and will offer years of pleasure and enlightenment for future generations. They ask for donations to the group's library. Other organizations have libraries too. All groups should let their members know to donate or will their private libraries or volumes of Rationalist books. This column will announce all those organizations that accept book donations to their libraries.

A debate: "Atheism is a False Doctrine," held in May between Samuel Voisard, pastor of the Geneva Church of God, and Karl E. Pauli, of the Knights of Reason, at the South Haven Rod and Gun Club in Toledo. Admission was 75 cents.

A discussion on the subject "The Catholic Church and Birth Control" was led by former Governor Culbert L. Olson, Milton Thor and Oscar Kolen at the SOUTH CALIFORNIA SECULARISTS in April.

David B. Olson, who has devoted much time in recent years studying the New Testament narratives, spoke before the JEFFERSON FREETHOUGHT SOCIETY, Milwaukee, on "Was Jesus an Opportunistic Political Adventurer?" — In May, Henry L. Watt gave an account of the career of England's former editor of the "Freethinker," Chapman Cohen, in his talk on "The Wit and Wisdom of Chapman Cohen."

The Washington U. Magazine, of St. Louis, published an article on "University Education and Modern Conditions," by Bertrand Russell, in which his concluding words are: "Truth is a shining goddess, always veiled, always distant, never wholly approachable . . . but worthy of all the devotion

of which the human spirit is capable."

"The Thinker's Handbook," by Hector Hawton, Editor of the English Humanist magazine, and published by the Rationalist Press Ass'n., is being used by the Ethical Society of St. Louis Philosophy Group for a series of discussions, taking it chapter by chapter.

Charles Bradlaugh Bonner, Pres. of the WORLD UNION OF FREE-THINKERS, celebrated his 70th birthday on April 28th in England. Mr. Bonner is the grandson of Charles Bradlaugh, founder of the National Secular Society. The next meeting of the World Union of Freethinkers will take place in Geneva on September 2nd to 5th, 1960. A committee meeting will be combined with a social occasion. Details available from Mr. Bonner, 23 Streathbourne Road, London S.W. 17, England.

"The Leicester Chronicle" devoted space to the LEICESTER SECULAR SOCIETY on Feb. 19. Noting that it was the oldest secular society in the world, being founded by Josiah Gimson in 1851, and that the Secular Hall was opened in 1881, the "Chronicle" briefly stated the Secular view that "all human effort should be directed towards the improvement of this world" and "that it is no use depending upon supernatural beings or religious creeds."

The "Chronicle" then gave a profile, with picture, of Mr. C. H. Hammersly, the present live-wire secretary of the Society, who recently appeared on the BBC's sound program "Signpost" and "Woman's Hour" and the television feature "Tonight". — The "Chronicle" also said he was an occasional contributor to "The Freethinker." On March 6th the Leicester Secular Society held a 79th anniversary celebration of the opening of their hall in Hummerstone Gate. Guest speaker was Mr. H. Cutner. Since becoming a Secularist 60 years ago, said Mr. Cutner, his attitude towards religion has never changed: he rejected them all . . . Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity — the lot. Nor did he believe in Spiritualism. Mr. Cutner writes frequently for the "Freethinker," England's weekly eight-page Free-thought journal.

Mr. Ridley was chairman of the yearly social event at the Pavlours Arms at the annual dinner of the

NATIONAL SECULAR SOCIETY and said that the evening, like Caesar's Gaul, could be divided into three parts — eating, speeches and dancing. Hector Hawton was guest speaker. Mr. Hawton felt that we must do our utmost to adjust ourselves to the changes taking place in our time. Our bond of unity must be Truth, we must approach our problems with clear thinking, and we must not allow such a phrase as "We can't trust Atheists," used so often, to go unchallenged. Above all, he said, on the question of religion, we must ask for evidence. The guests were surprised by the announcement of the engagement of Mr. Colin McCall to Miss June Goodhew. A check for over \$140 was presented as a wedding gift.

From India comes the sad news of the death of Sir M. V. K. Rangachari, Honorary Secretary of the RATIONALIST PRESS ASS'N. Born in 1889, he was a graduate of Madras University and entered the Kakinada Bar in 1911. He was a member of the Indian Philosophical Congress, of which he was a sectional President in Allahabad in 1938. He was also Vice-Chairman of the Kakinada Municipality in 1942 and President of the Irrigation Advisory Board, Postmen's Union, and Secretary of the Madras Provincial Welfare Fund.

We regret to report the death of Mrs. B. M. Watts, 78, widow of the late Charles A. Watts, founder of the RATIONALIST PRESS ASSOCIATION of England. A large part of their married life Mr. Watts was an invalid, and Mrs. Watts' care and devotion enabled him to continue an active interest in the affairs of the RPA until his death in 1946.

Advice To The Modern Freethinker

Do not breed hatred by hating, or attempt to force your beliefs upon others by violence, ridicule, or vituperation; hate only injures the hater.

Be constructive: explain your theories by presenting scientific facts and logical reasoning.

Your moral and intellectual power can be stronger than the logic of your argumentation.

— Dr. Vitali Negri.

Getting Rid Of Superstition

by DAVID SEABURY
Psychologist and author

One of the great steps in the life of anyone is the repudiation of superstition. We grow by getting rid of superstitious nonsense and none has been more damaging than the delusions of hell and the Devil.

A belief in hell had its advantages, of course. One could gain a certain satisfaction by consigning ones enemies to a fiery furnace. And, as for the devil, it was convenient to believe the mistakes we made were not our fault, that we merely were tempted by Satan.

It is unwise, however, merely to laugh at such antiquated beliefs, since they have taken toll of many of our associates. How then shall we treat the Devil or deal with the idea of hell? We should make them serve us and use them as symbols.

Every superstition that has ravaged the life of men has a valuable truth hidden in it. What is the Devil? It is the power of ignorance. It is a belief in what is against true living — against the life principle. True living is a constructive way of life, evil a destructive one. The Devil is an attitude of mind which is against life, against nature. Hell is a state of consciousness which devilry creates.

For centuries fear of hell and of being tempted by the Devil served to drive mankind away from crime, at least to some degree. We, who can no longer believe in a physical hell and a red-horned Satan, need to realize the danger we are in when we allow our thoughts to go against life and thus become evil. We should never forget that, when we allow such barbaric emotions as rage, fear, and hatred control us, we act as if we were possessed of the Devil.

It is extremely unwise to repudiate the idea of hell or to deride the existence of the Devil and put no constructive beliefs in their stead. Plenty of negative delusions can get into our minds if we leave the place empty where the old delusions were. For we are dealing here with one of the great riddles of human life, and one that has played havoc with metaphysics in centuries past. "What is evil?" our forefathers asked. Is there such a thing? Can evil exist in a Divine Order? The great Robert Browning gave the solution. "Evil is null, is naught. Is silence implying sound." The riddle is answered in these words, at least for those who see their meaning.

"Evil is null," but what is null nullifies. If

believed in, it can destroy the experience of goodness. We must treat it as we would the idea of hell, as a negative state of mind in which constructive affirmation is lacking. Just as we see the Devil as an attitude against constructive living, so we can see that evil exists as the absence of the perception of good.

"Evil is naught," but in that dark emptiness we can lose our way in life. A positive faith, however, even makes use of evil by showing us how not to live.

THE BIRTH OF THE GOSPEL

by WILLIAM BENJAMIN SMITH

ARE THE GOSPELS TRUE — IS AESOP TRUE?

For both the answer is the same, as both are purest non-factual allegory. Smith presents abundant powerful evidence for this, from biblical as well as other sources. He is conceded "hard to refute", a challenge to scholars and to independent minded laymen.

xxi plus 232 pp. — NOW \$2.00

Order through:

AR BOOK SERVICE

2218 St. Louis Ave. • St. Louis 6, Mo.

A New Booklet —

So You May Know . . .

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR
NON-RATIONALISTS



Contains Four Sections:

- How the Bible originated
- Description of and selections from the Syllabus of Errors of Pope Pius IX.
- Selections from Luther's Theses
- Undemocratic pronouncements of the Roman Catholic Church

8 pages crammed with excellent points for everyone to read — Protestants, Catholics or liberals.

15 cents each — 10 for \$1.00

100 for \$5.00 — 500 for \$22.50

1000 for \$40.00

Published by

Rationalist Association

616 N. Pine Ave. Chicago 44, Ill.

"Mortgage" On U.S. — 750 Billions

by MAURICE H. STANS
Director of the Budget Bureau

Excerpts from an address by Mr. Stans before the Executives Club of Chicago, Jan. 29, 1960.

The real claims on U. S. Taxpayers are given here by the Budget Director. He warns against adding to the "mortgage" on the nation's future.

In the last decade, from fiscal year 1950 to fiscal year 1960, for the Federal Government alone:

Total federal taxes and receipts show a rise from 36.5 billion dollars to 78.6 billion dollars, an increase of 115 percent;

Expenditures for agricultural programs have increased from 2.8 billion dollars to 5.1 billion dollars — a rise of 85 percent;

Expenditures for natural resources rose from 1.2 billion dollars to 1.8 billion dollars — a growth of 50 percent;

Expenditures for public health went up from 244 million dollars in 1951 to 850 million dollars in 1960 — an increase of 250 percent;

Expenditures for major national security rose from 13 billion dollars in 1950 to 45.6 billion dollars in 1960, an increase of 250 percent;

Expenditures for interest on the public debt increased from 5.7 billion dollars in 1950 to 9.3 billion dollars in 1960 — an increase of about 60 percent.

Here is one more statistic: The Federal Government in fiscal year 1961 will spend 79.8 billion dollars. Now, if you add up what we will have spent on interest on the public debt from 1950 through 1960, it comes out to 75 billion dollars — almost enough to cover all our expenditures for the next full fiscal year. That's a high price to pay for years of spending more than we took in.

I ask you to realize that, when you look only at the budget for one year at a time, you see only the visible portion of the iceberg; the dangerous part of it is under water. The brutal truth is that we have made our job unnecessarily and grievously difficult; and further, that there are pressures at work on all sides to drive us deeper into the hole.

FACT NO. 1. is that the Federal Government is piling up c.o.d.'s for the future at an astounding pace:

It will cost over 30 billion dollars to com-

plete the interstate highway system.

Federal civil public-works projects already started will require expenditures after 1961 of about 7 billion dollars before they are completed.

The Federal Government is committed to contribute 5.5 billion dollars in the future for public housing.

Merchant-marine subsidies and ship replacement constitute a federal liability of 4.3 billion dollars.

These and a variety of other obligations, when added to huge, unexpended balances in the defense program, total 98 billion dollars of commitments for future federal spending.

In one sense, and standing alone, this is not too bad, for most of these expenditures will add to the nation's assets. — But this isn't all.

FACT NO. 2 is this: Even if this session of the Congress doesn't add any new programs to the budget, the level of federal spending is going to go up. The reason is that there are built-in increases in existing programs which are now producing a continuing upcurve in expenditures.

The catalogue of built-in increases covers such programs as outer space, civil aviation, merchant shipping, urban renewal, science education, medical research, public assistance, loans to underdeveloped countries, and pensions to veterans. Interest on the public debt will run still higher, and the farm program may cost more and more, unless we get realistic legislation on both. Defense technology is putting increasing pressure on expenditures.

Now, for 1961 alone, these built-in increases amount to over 2 billion dollars; that's why this budget is up over 1960. For 1962 there are already built-in increases of a billion dollars.

Of course, there are few built-in decreases, because Government programs seem almost invulnerable to reduction or elimination.

FACT NO. 3 is that our present national debt of 290 billion dollars is far from all we owe for the past. Here are some items it does not include: Our already accrued liability for military retirement is about 30 billion dollars. Our unfunded present accrual for retirement benefits for civilian Government employees is almost 28 billion dollars. On top of that,

future pensions, compensation — and other benefits voted to veterans will cost about 300 billion dollars. Now, the 290 billions of current public debt, plus over 350 billion dollars of future obligations for past services, plus 98 billion dollars of c.o.d.'s, adds to the almost incredible total of nearly 750 billion dollars.

That is the Federal Government's mortgage on America's future — on ourselves and our children — beyond the regular annual costs of defense, welfare and commerce.

FACT NO. 4 is that the pressures for new spending programs are increasing in intensity. In the last session of the Congress alone, there were 20 major spending bills introduced in the House, along with 20 others in the Senate, for new programs which altogether priced out to more than 326 billion dollars over an average period of five years. If these bills were passed as their sponsors want them, they would add 50 to 60 billions dollars to our present spending.

This is the bleak situation we will do well to contemplate when irresponsible groups ridicule 80-billion-dollar budgets as austere and reactionary, and when we are asked to believe that we can have more spending and tax cuts and prosperity for everyone, all in the same breath. The false theory that we could spend ourselves into prosperity was supposed to have died 20 years ago.

Haven't we been chasing our tails around that one just about long enough?

A 1959 WAR ALERT — NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

NEW YORK—On May 18, 1959, a giant U. S. Navy task force was ordered to get ready for atomic war with Russia.

The story, secret until now, was told by Vice Adm. William R. Smedberg, commander of the U.S. Second Fleet, in an address here December 2.

On May 18, the Admiral said, the Berlin crisis was boiling. Russia's deadline for an Allied withdrawal from Berlin was only nine days off. The Second Fleet was ordered to rendezvous at sea.

Carriers, guided-missile cruisers, submarines, destroyers, ammunition ships, radar-picket ships, tankers and antisubmarine hunter-killer groups slipped quietly out of Atlantic ports, Admiral Smedberg said. He continued:

"They met without signal at a previously arranged rendezvous at sea, assumed one of our new dispersed positions, and disappeared. In 24 hours we could be 500 miles from the point; in a week, more than 3,000 miles from there — ready to launch strikes, with atomic or conventional weapons as ordered and as required.

"On Memorial Day, May 30, my ships returned to their home ports, the once-significant Berlin deadline date of May 27th having faded into history."

—U. S. News & World Report.
Dec. 14, 1959.

MEDICAL MONOPOLY

We always wonder when the public will wake up to the doctor's monopoly. An artificial scarcity of doctors has been created which is skyrocketing health expenses at the same time that the jealous medical trade union, the AMA, denounces government assistance as "socialized medicine." There was one doctor to 578 people in 1900; only one doctor to 935 in 1957. Obviously the government should set up more medical schools — quick. Now pending in Congress are health measures including the Forand bill to help the elderly and others by adding medical insurance to social security. A generation ago the AMA fought the National Tuberculosis Act, compulsory vaccination for smallpox, and the Social Security Act. We know who will oppose steps to better health now — the AMA.

— New Republic

THE PHILADELPHIA RATIONALIST SOCIETY

invites you to send for a free sample copy
of its monthly journal

The FREETHINKER

a 24 page rationalist and freethought journal, carrying news, notes, articles of interest to all Freethinkers. The Fastest growing freethought paper in the USA.

Send at once to:

The FREETHINKER

Box R 5526 Westford Road
Philadelphia 20, Pa.

BE SURE TO GET

Paul Blanshard's New Book

"God and Man in Washington"

The INSIDE on

Religious Pressure Group's Influence
on Legislation.

PRICE — \$3.50

BOOK SERVICE

Rationalist Association

616 N. Pine Ave. Chicago 44, Ill.

BOOK SERVICE

BERTRAND RUSSELL —

What Is The Soul? .....	.50
Is Materialism Bankrupt? .....	.50
Can Men Be Rational? .....	.50
Am I an Atheist or an Agnostic? .....	.50
Ideas That Have Helped Mankind .....	.50
Ideas That Have Harmed Mankind .....	.50
An Outline Of Intellectual Rubbish .....	.50
How To Read And Understand History .....	.50
On The Value Of Scepticism .....	.50
The Value Of Freethought .....	.50
The Faith Of A Rationalist .....	.50

Special - For a limited time —

These 11 Books for only \$4.00

JOSEPH McCABE —

The Dumbness Of The Great	1.00
History's Greatest Liars	1.00
The Myth Of Catholic Scholarship	1.00
Biographical Dictionary of Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Freethinkers.....	1.00
The Columbia Encyclopedia's Crimes Against The Truth	1.00
The Origin And Meaning Of Ideas	1.00
Outline Of The World's Great Ism's	1.00
Rome's Syllabus Of Condemned Opinions	1.00
The Totalitarian Church Of Rome .....	.75
The Church — The Enemy Of The Workers .....	.75
Rome Puts A Blight On Culture .....	.75
Rome Irreconcilable With Democracy .....	.50

Special - For a limited time —

All 12 Books only \$6.00

JOHN MAURICE GRIMES, M.D. WHEN MINDS GO WRONG

A shocking revelation of the treatment of the mentally ill in state and private institutions. With restraint and well-controlled indignation, Dr. Grimes tells the facts about sadistic violence with which the mentally ill are treated — the political system by which attendants' jobs are handed out to brutal and unqualified persons, and he offers sound and proven methods for correcting these shocking conditions. \$3.50

ANNE LYON HAIGHT BANNED BOOKS

Informal notes on some books banned for various reasons at various times and in various places. In hard cover \$2.50

MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORS —

Profits Of Religion by Upton Sinclair	2.00
International Freethought Manual edited by Alice Haldeman-Julius	1.00
Father Murphy's Escapade by Hugh Robert Orr	1.00
Brief Summary Of Fundamentals Relating To Life, Death, Religion, and Philosophy by William H. Mayfield	1.00
Superior Men by Hervey Johnson	1.00
God and Mammon by J. A. Hodson .....	.75
Bad By-Products Of Religion by Frank Swancara .....	.75
Truth Is A Shattered Mirror by Mary Gift .....	.50
Is Religion Necessary? — A Debate Darrow - Rev. MacGowan .....	.50
The Truth Shall Make You Free by Freemasons .....	.50
Science And The Supernatural by Anton J. Carlson .....	.35
"By Their Fruits —" by Ira D. Cardiff .....	.15
Why I Do Not Believe In God by Arthur G. Cromwell .....	.20
Pope Joan by Chris Olsen .....	.15
Giordano Bruno by John J. Kessler, Ph.D. ....	.20
The Rationalist Challenge And Faith In Man by Dr. L. H. Coate .....	.20

All 16 Books and Pamphlets
for only \$6.50

VITALI NEGRI, Ph.D.

YOUR COMPLEXES AND YOU

A new, exciting discussion of the origin, development and result of various emotional conflicts and behaviorisms. A scientific work presented in simple language. This step-by-step analysis enables you to catalogue your own feelings and actions and to recognize the symptoms of complexes displayed by others. \$4.00

ORDER FROM —

American Rationalist

Book Service

616 North Pine Avenue
Chicago 44, Illinois

